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FOOD & DRUG ADMINISTRATION (FDA)

CENTER FOR DRUG EVALUATION AND RESEARCH (CDER)

PULMONARY-ALLERGY DRUGS

ADVISORY COMMITTEE (PADAC)

Mannitol Inhalation Powder

(Bronchitol)

NDA 202049

Wednesday, January 30, 2013

The Great Room

White Oak Conference Center

White Oak Campus, Building 31

10903 New Hampshire Avenue

Silver Spring, MD 20993

Reported by: Natalia Thomas

Capital Reporting Company

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 1
                         Meeting Roster
 2
             DESIGNATED FEDERAL OFFICER (Non-Voting)
 3
   Cindy Hong, PharmD
   Division of Advisory Committee and Consultant
 5
  Management
   Office of Executive Programs, CDER, FDA
 8
 9
      PULMONARY-ALLERGY DRUGS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS
10
                            (Voting)
11
12 Kathryn Blake, PhD
13 Senior Research Scientist
14 Nemours Children's Clinic
15 Jacksonville, Florida
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17 Paul A. Greenberger, MD
18 Professor of Medicine, Department of Medicine
  Division of Allergy-Immunology
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20 Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine
21 Chicago, Illinois
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                         Meeting Roster
                           (continued)
 2
       PULMONARY-ALLERGY DRUGS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS
 3
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 5
 6 David B. Jacoby, MD
 7 (Chairperson)
 8 Professor of Medicine
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10 Division of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine
11 Portland, Oregon
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13 Rodney Mullins
14 (Consumer Representative)
15 National Director, Public Health Consultants
16 and Advocates
17 Duluth, Georgia
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 2
       PULMONARY-ALLERGY DRUGS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS
 3
                         (Voting) (cont.)
 4
 5
   Kelly Dean Stone, MD, PhD
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   Program
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   Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine
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 3
       PULMONARY-ALLERGY DRUGS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS
                          (Non-Voting)
 4
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  Clinical Professor of Medicine
   Division of Allergy & Immunology
10 UMDNJ - University of Medicine and Dentistry
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   New Jersey Medical School, Newark, New Jersey
12
   Allergy and Immunology, Ear, Nose & Throat Care PC &
13
14 Allergy
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   Somerville, New Jersey
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 7 Nationwide Children's Hospital
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 8 School of Public Health
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15 and Critical Care Division
16 University of New Mexico
  Albuquerque, New Mexico
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              TEMPORARY MEMBERS (Voting) (cont.)
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  Gillings School of Public Health
   University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
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13 Associate Professor of Pediatrics
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15 Neonatologist
16 Department of Newborn Medicine
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18 Division of Respiratory Diseases
19 Boston Children's Hospital
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              TEMPORARY MEMBERS (Voting) (cont.)
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 7 Creighton University School of Medicine
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   Allergy Asthma & Immunology Associates, P.C.
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12 Jeffrey S. Wagener, MD
13 Professor of Pediatrics
14 University of Colorado Medical School
15 Aurora, Colorado
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17 TEMPORARY MEMBERS (Non-Voting)
18
19 Charles Hawkins
20 (Patient Representative)
21 Baltimore, Maryland
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 2
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 3
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 6 Director
 7 Division of Pulmonary, Allergy, and
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  Office of New Drugs (OND), CDER, FDA
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11
12 Anthony Durmowicz, MD
13 Clinical Team Leader
14 DPARP, ODE-II, OND, CDER
15
16 Kimberly Witzmann, MD
17 Clinical Reviewer
18 DPARP, ODE-II, OND, CDER
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11
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 2
                FDA MEMBERS (Non-Voting) (cont.)
 3
   Thomas Permutt, PhD
 5
 6 Director
7 Division of Biostatistics II (DB-II)
8 Office of Biostatistics (OB)
   Office of Translational Sciences (OTS), CDER, FDA
10
11 Feng Zhou, MS
12 Statistical Reviewer
13 DB-II, OB, OTS, CDER, FDA
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- 1 PROCEEDINGS
- 2 Call to Order and Introduction of Committee Members
- 3 DR. JACOBY: If everyone could please take
- 4 their seats, we can get started. I would like to
- 5 remind everyone present please silence your cell
- 6 phones, as well as Blackberries and other devices, if
- 7 you haven't already done so.
- 8 I would also like to identify the FDA press
- 9 contact for this meeting, Ms. Morgan Liscinsky. Ms.
- 10 Liscinsky, are you -- thank you.
- 11 My name is David Jacoby. I am the Chair for
- 12 the Pulmonary-Allergy Drugs Advisory Committee. I will
- 13 now call this meeting of the Pulmonary-Allergy Drugs
- 14 Advisory Committee to order.
- We will start by going around the table and
- 16 introducing ourselves. Let's start on the right.
- DR. DRUCE: Good morning. My name is Howard
- 18 Druce. I'm a clinical professor of medicine at the New
- 19 Jersey Medical School in Newark, and I'm in private
- 20 practice in allergy and immunology in Somerville, New
- 21 Jersey.
- DR. CATALETTO: My name is Mary Cataletto.

- 1 I'm a professor of clinical pediatrics at SUNY Stony
- 2 Brook, and I practice clinical pediatric pulmonology.
- 3 DR. CASTILE: I'm Bob Castile. I practice
- 4 pediatric pulmonology at Nationwide Children's Hospital
- 5 in Columbus, Ohio.
- 6 DR. PARAD: My name is Richard Parad. I am a
- 7 neonatologist and pediatric pulmonologist at Boston
- 8 Children's Hospital, and Brigham and Women's Hospital,
- 9 Harvard Medical School.
- 10 DR. WAGENER: I'm Jeff Wagener. I am a
- 11 professor of pediatrics from the University of
- 12 Colorado, and recently retired.
- DR. HARKINS: Michelle Harkins, associate
- 14 professor of medicine, University of Mexico, adult
- 15 pulmonary and critical care.
- 16 DR. CONNETT: I'm John Connett. I am
- 17 professor of biostatistics at the University of
- 18 Minnesota.
- 19 DR. STONE: Kelly Stone. I'm a pediatrician
- 20 and allergist/immunologist in the Laboratory of
- 21 Allergic Diseases, NIAID.
- DR. BLAKE: I'm Kathryn Blake, Senior

- 1 Research Scientist in the Center for Pharmacogenomics
- 2 and Translational Research at Nemours Children's Clinic
- 3 in Jacksonville, Florida.
- 4 DR. JACOBY: David Jacoby. I'm chief of
- 5 pulmonary and critical care at Oregon Health and
- 6 Science University in Portland.
- 7 DR. HONG: Hi. I'm Cindy Hong, the
- 8 designated federal officer for the Pulmonary-Allergy
- 9 Drugs Advisory Committee.
- 10 DR. TERRY: Peter Terry, professor of
- 11 medicine, pulmonary and critical care, Johns Hopkins.
- DR. GREENBERGER: Paul Greenberger, professor
- 13 of medicine, Division of Allergy-Immunology at
- 14 Northwestern University, Feinberg School of Medicine.
- MR. MULLINS: Rodney Mullins from Atlanta,
- 16 Georgia, chair of the Health Advisory Coalition and
- 17 director of National Public Health Advocates.
- 18 DR. TRACY: Jim Tracy, associate professor of
- 19 medicine, Creighton University, Division of Allergy and
- 20 Immunology, and in private practice in Omaha.
- DR. HERRING: Amy Herring, professor of
- 22 biostatistics, the University of North Carolina at

- 1 Chapel Hill.
- 2 MR. HAWKINS: Charles Hawkins. I'm a patient
- 3 with cystic fibrosis here representing that group of
- 4 people.
- 5 MS. ZHOU: Feng Zhou, statistical reviewer,
- 6 FDA.
- 7 DR. PERMUTT: Tom Permutt, director, Division
- 8 of Biometrics II.
- 9 DR. WITZMANN: Kimberly Witzmann, clinical
- 10 reviewer for FDA, and I'm a pediatric pulmonologist by
- 11 training.
- DR. DURMOWICZ: I'm Tony Durmowicz. I'm a
- 13 pediatric pulmonary and critical care physician, here
- 14 in the pulmonary allergy/rheumatology group.
- DR. CHOWDHURY: I'm Badrul Chowdhury. I'm
- 16 the division director, Division of Pulmonary, Allergy,
- 17 and Rheumatology Products at the FDA.
- DR. JACOBY: Thank you. Thank you, everyone,
- 19 for being here.
- 20 For topics such as those being discussed at
- 21 today's meeting, there are often a variety of opinions,
- 22 some of which are quite strongly held. Our goal is

- 1 that today's meeting will be a fair and open forum for
- 2 discussion of these issues, and that individuals can
- 3 express their views without interruption.
- 4 Thus, as a gentle reminder, individuals will
- 5 be allowed to speak into the record only if recognized
- 6 by the chair. We look forward to a productive meeting.
- 7 In the spirit of the Federal Advisory
- 8 Committee Act and the Government in the Sunshine Act,
- 9 we ask that the Advisory Committee members take care
- 10 that their conversations about the topic at hand take
- 11 place in the open forum of the meeting.
- We are aware that members of the media are
- 13 anxious to speak with FDA about these proceedings.
- 14 However, FDA will refrain from discussing the details
- 15 of this meeting with the media until its conclusion.
- 16 Also, the Committee is reminded to please
- 17 refrain from discussing the meeting topic during breaks
- 18 or lunch.
- 19 Thank you. Conflict of Interest Statement
- 20 DR. HONG: The Food and Drug Administration
- 21 is convening today's meeting of the Pulmonary-Allergy
- 22 Drugs Advisory Committee under the authority of the

- 1 Federal Advisory Committee Act of 1972. With the
- 2 exception of the industry representative, all members
- 3 and temporary members of the Committee are special
- 4 government employees or regular federal employees from
- 5 other agencies and are subject to federal conflict of
- 6 interest laws and regulations.
- 7 The following information on the status of
- 8 those committees' compliance with federal ethics and
- 9 conflict of interest laws covered by, but not limited
- 10 to, those found at 18 USC Section 208 is being provided
- 11 to participants in today's meeting and to the public.
- 12 FDA has determined that members and temporary
- 13 voting members of this Committee are in compliance with
- 14 federal ethics and conflict of interest laws. Under 18
- 15 U.S.C Section 208, Congress has authorized FDA to grant
- 16 waivers to special government employees and regular
- 17 federal employees who have potential financial
- 18 conflicts where it is determined that the agency's need
- 19 for a particular individual's service outweighs his or
- 20 her potential financial conflict of interest.
- 21 Related to the discussions of today's
- 22 meeting, members and temporary members of this

- 1 Committee have been screened for potential financial
- 2 conflicts of interest of their own as well as those
- 3 imputed to them, including those of their spouses or
- 4 minor children, and, for purposes of 18 USC Section
- 5 208, their employers.
- These interests may include investments,
- 7 consulting, expert witness testimony, contracts,
- 8 grants, CREDAs, teaching, speaking, writing, patents
- 9 and royalties, and primary employment.
- 10 Today's agenda involves discussion of New
- 11 Drug Application 2020494, mannitol inhalation powder,
- 12 proposed trade name bronchitol for oral inhalation,
- 13 sponsored by Pharmaxis for the proposed indication of
- 14 management of cystic fibrosis in patients age six years
- 15 and older to improve pulmonary function.
- This is a particulate matters meeting during
- 17 which specific matters related to Pharmaxis' mannitol
- 18 will be discussed. Based on the agenda and all
- 19 financial interests reported by the Committee members
- 20 and temporary matters, no conflict of interest waivers
- 21 have been issued in connection with this session.
- To ensure transparency, we encourage all

- 1 standing Committee members and temporary voting members
- 2 to disclose any public statements that they have made
- 3 concerning the product at issue.
- With respect to FDA's invited industry
- 5 representative, we would like to disclose that Dr.
- 6 Howard Druce is participating in this meeting as a non-
- 7 voting industry representative, acting on behalf of
- 8 regulated industry. Dr. Druce's role at this meeting
- 9 is to represent industry in general and not any
- 10 particular company. Dr. Druce is an independent
- 11 pharmaceutical industry consultant.
- We would like to remind members and temporary
- 13 voting members that if the discussions involve any
- 14 other products or firms not already on the agenda for
- 15 which an FDA participant has a personal or imputed
- 16 financial interest, the participants need to exclude
- 17 themselves from such involvement, and their exclusion
- 18 will be noted for the record.
- 19 FDA encourages all other participants to
- 20 advise the Committee of any financial relationships
- 21 that they may have with the firm at issue.
- Thank you.

- DR. JACOBY: We will now proceed with
- 2 the FDA opening remarks from Dr. Anthony Durmowicz. I
- 3 would like to remind public observers of this meeting
- 4 that, while this meeting is open for public
- 5 observation, public attendees may not participate
- 6 except at the specific request of the panel. Opening
- 7 Remarks
- 8 DR. DURMOWICZ: Good morning, and I would
- 9 like to welcome everyone here to White Oak, and thank
- 10 you for your participation in the Pulmonary-Allergy
- 11 Drugs Advisory Committee meeting today.
- The objective of today's discussion will be
- 13 to look at the efficacy and safety data for the NDA
- 14 from Pharmaxis Limited for inhaled mannitol to treat
- 15 patients with cystic fibrosis to improve pulmonary
- 16 function.
- I think you are going to hear some detailed
- 18 presentations from both the applicant as well as the
- 19 FDA today, so I will be very brief in outlining the
- 20 clinical program for inhaled mannitol and outline some
- 21 key issues that you will be asked to deliberate on
- 22 later.

- 1 As many or most already know, mannitol is a
- 2 commonly used and recognized sugar alcohol. It is used
- 3 as an osmotic diuretic in medicine. It is generally
- 4 recognized as safe by the enteral route.
- 5 For the inhalation indication that is being
- 6 sought today, the indication is for management of
- 7 cystic fibrosis in patients six years and older to
- 8 improve pulmonary function. The proposed dose is 400
- 9 milligrams taken as 10 capsules by inhalation twice
- 10 daily.
- 11 You should also note that a closely related
- 12 product of inhaled mannitol called aridol is approved
- 13 by the FDA as a test kit similar to methacholine to
- 14 assess airway hyperresponsiveness. And as such, in
- 15 some patients there can be a side effect of severe
- 16 bronchial constriction.
- 17 Also of note is that there are other mucus
- 18 clearance agents that are used for cystic fibrosis.
- 19 One inhaled hypertonic saline is commonly used and has
- 20 become a standard of care for many cystic fibrosis
- 21 patients in the United States, although it is not FDA
- 22 approved for use. Another mucus clearance or mucolytic

- 1 agent is DNase, also known as pulmozyme.
- I won't dwell too long on what cystic
- 3 fibrosis is, as many of the Committee members are well
- 4 aware. It is, however, an autosomal recessive genetic
- 5 disorder caused by mutations in the cystic fibrosis
- 6 transmembrane regulator gene. Loss of function in the
- 7 CFTR protein leads to the multi-organ abnormalities
- 8 that are associated with cystic fibrosis. These
- 9 include airway obstruction with subsequent pulmonary
- 10 infection, pancreatic insufficiency and other GI
- 11 abnormalities, and reproductive problems.
- There are approximately 30,000 patients in
- 13 the U.S. with cystic fibrosis. And despite significant
- 14 advances, CF remains a serious disease which is
- 15 ultimately fatal to many people.
- With the exception of the recently approved
- 17 drug ivacaftor, which is approved in only a very small
- 18 subpopulation of cystic fibrosis patients, current
- 19 therapies treat only symptoms and complications of the
- 20 disease.
- 21 The clinical program for inhaled mannitol for
- 22 cystic fibrosis was fairly small, as would be expected

- 1 for an orphan disease. Study 202 provided the main
- 2 evidence for dose selection. It was an open-label,
- 3 crossover study with two-week treatment periods and
- 4 approximately 48 patients. The primary endpoint was
- 5 percent change in FEV1.
- 6 This study formed the basis for selection of
- 7 the 400 milligram, twice daily proposed dose, as well
- 8 as the selection of the 50 milligram dose as a control
- 9 based on lack of effect of a 40 milligram dose in that
- 10 trial.
- 11 There were two Phase III trials, Studies 301
- 12 and 302. Both were very similar in design. Both were
- 13 double-blinded, controlled, parallel group studies of
- 14 26- week duration, double-blinded periods. Both had
- 15 approximately 300 patients. The primary endpoint was
- 16 absolute change in FEV1 across the 26-week treatment
- 17 period compared to placebo.
- 18 It is notable that these studies were not
- 19 conducted concurrently. Study 301 was conducted first,
- 20 followed by Study 302.
- 21 I would like to now go through some of the
- 22 issues with the program that you will be asked to

- 1 deliberate upon later today.
- 2 Far and away the most problematic issue was
- 3 that of missing data. There was a high degree of
- 4 differential dropout, more so in the treatment group
- 5 than in the control group. This is especially true for
- 6 the first study, Study 301. As such, sensitivity
- 7 analyses were required in order to be able to assess
- 8 the interpretability of the study results.
- 9 Also, how much of a treatment effect is also
- 10 somewhat questionable, likely because of the
- 11 differential dropout and multiple sensitivity analyses.
- 12 At the end of the day, however, it appears that there
- 13 is a single study which has demonstrated efficacy and a
- 14 second study which is statistically negative or
- 15 equivocal.
- 16 Sensitivity analyses that you will see
- 17 presented suggest that a treatment effect is in a range
- 18 of a certain set of values, approximately 50 to 80
- 19 milliliters. And from a clinical perspective, one of
- 20 the issues is, is that clinically significant in this
- 21 population?
- 22 As I mentioned previously, there is a known

- 1 safety issue with the bronchial provocation agent. In
- 2 the clinical trials, there is also increased amounts of
- 3 hemoptysis in treatment patients. Pediatrics is also a
- 4 topic for discussion.
- 5 So at the end of the day, we have three main
- 6 discussion issues. One is the efficacy determination,
- 7 and that boils down to, is there substantial evidence
- 8 of efficacy as we define it? Taking into consideration
- 9 the impact of the missing data and differential dropout
- 10 in the sensitivity analysis suggesting a range of
- 11 effect on FEV1, rather than being able to pinpoint it a
- 12 little bit more accurately, as well as the clinical
- 13 relevance of the range of treatment effects that you'll
- 14 see.
- 15 Safety is also to be discussed, again, as I
- 16 mentioned, with the potential safety concerns, most
- 17 notably hemoptysis and respiratory adverse events. And
- 18 with regard to pediatrics, there is -- the issue is, is
- 19 there sufficient data to suggest there is evidence of
- 20 efficacy and acceptable safety in that population of
- 21 children six to 17 years of age?
- 22 With that, thank you for your attention, and

- 1 I will turn the podium back over to Dr. Jacoby.
- 2 Thank you.
- 3 DR. JACOBY: Thank you. We will now proceed
- 4 with the sponsor presentations. Both the Food and Drug
- 5 Administration and the public believe in a transparent
- 6 process for information-gathering and decision-making.
- 7 To ensure such transparency at Advisory Committee
- 8 meetings, FDA believes it is important to understand
- 9 the context of an individual's presentation. For this
- 10 reason, FDA encourages all participants, including
- 11 sponsor's non-employee presenters, to advise the
- 12 Committee of any financial relationships that they may
- 13 have with the firm at issue, such as consulting fees,
- 14 travel expenses, honoraria, and interest in the
- 15 sponsor, including equity interests and those based on
- 16 the outcome of the meeting.
- 17 Likewise, FDA encourages you at the beginning
- 18 of your presentation to advise the Committee if you do
- 19 not have any such financial relationships. If you
- 20 choose not to address this issue of financial
- 21 relationships at the beginning of your presentation, it
- 22 will not preclude you from speaking. Sponsor

- 1 Presentations Introduction
- DR. DUNDORE: Good morning. I am Ron
- 3 Dundore, vice president of U.S. Regulatory Affairs for
- 4 Pharmaxis. We appreciate the opportunity to review the
- 5 NDA for the use of dry powder mannitol, DPM, in
- 6 patients with cystic fibrosis with this Advisory
- 7 Committee.
- 8 The proposed indication for DPM is the
- 9 management of cystic fibrosis in patients age six years
- 10 and older to improve pulmonary function. Patients with
- 11 FEV1 less than 30 percent predicted, and patients with
- 12 a history of recent significant hemoptysis, were
- 13 excluded from the Phase III trials, and, accordingly,
- 14 we have excluded them from the proposed label.
- 15 After an extensive review of the data
- 16 obtained in our clinical studies, we also propose to
- 17 exclude patients with FEV1 less than 40 percent because
- 18 of uncertain benefit risk in this subpopulation.
- 19 DPM is a novel proprietary formulation of
- 20 mannitol for inhalation. Mannitol is generally
- 21 recognized as safe or GRAS by the FDA when used as a
- 22 food additive, allowing exposure of 20 grams per day,

- 1 significantly above any medicinal use. The dose of DPM
- 2 is 400 milligrams BID. It is currently approved for
- 3 the treatment of cystic fibrosis in Europe and
- 4 Australia.
- 5 Pharmaxis currently markets another inhaled
- 6 mannitol preparation in the U.S., proprietary name
- 7 aridol. Aridol is used to test for bronchial
- 8 hyperresponsiveness. With the exception of dose, the
- 9 preparation of mannitol in aridol is exactly the same
- 10 as in DPM.
- 11 With aridol, the total dose of inhaled
- 12 mannitol is 635 milligrams. Within the lung, mannitol
- 13 may act as an osmotic agent to promote airway
- 14 clearance. Non-clinical studies have shown that
- 15 mannitol induces an influx of water into the airway
- 16 lumen and increases the airway surface liquid.
- 17 Mannitol facilitates the transportability of mucus and
- 18 increases the ciliary beat frequency of human ciliated
- 19 bronchial endothelial cells.
- 20 Clinical studies have shown that inhaled
- 21 mannitol improves mucociliary clearance in healthy
- 22 subjects and in patients with cystic fibrosis, as well

- 1 as asthma and bronchiectasis. Therefore, inhaled
- 2 mannitol hydrates the surface of the lung, decreases
- 3 the viscosity of the mucus, and allows the patient to
- 4 more easily expel the thick viscous mucus that is a
- 5 symptom of cystic fibrosis. The expulsion of the mucus
- 6 improves airway clearance and lung function.
- 7 DPM is engineered to provide optimal
- 8 deposition of mannitol in the lung. A solution of
- 9 mannitol is spray-dried to produce consistent smears of
- 10 three micrometers in diameter, ensuring optimized
- 11 delivery to the lung. The dry powder mannitol is
- 12 placed in capsules containing 40 milligrams. The total
- 13 dose of 400 milligrams is administered by a breath-
- 14 actuated dry powder inhaler.
- 15 Here is how the inhaler works. The process
- 16 starts by removing the cap. To open the inhaler you
- 17 simply twist the top and place a capsule in the
- 18 chamber. After closing the inhaler, you press the
- 19 buttons on the side to puncture the capsule and then
- 20 release. Finally, you place the inhaler in your mouth,
- 21 tilt your head back, and take a deep breath, holding it
- 22 for five seconds.

- 1 You then breathe out, away from the inhaler.
- 2 This process is then repeated for the remaining
- 3 capsules. The entire 400 milligram administration time
- 4 is approximately five minutes. The inhaler is portable
- 5 and disposable, requiring no routine cleaning.
- 6 Importantly, DPM is designed for patient convenience.
- 7 With this background in mind, I would like to
- 8 review the outline for our presentation. Dr. Felix
- 9 Ratjen will discuss the unmet medical need in the
- 10 treatment of cystic fibrosis. Dr. Howard Fox will
- 11 present the Phase III studies that demonstrate the
- 12 efficacy of DPM and will describe the statistical
- 13 methods used to assess efficacy.
- Dr. Brett Charlton will discuss the safety of
- 15 DPM, and Dr. Patrick Flume will discuss the
- 16 risk/benefit of DPM and provide a clinical perspective.
- In addition, we have other experts with us
- 18 today to help address your questions. Dr. Bilton has
- 19 used DPM to treat a number of her CF patients and can
- 20 address your questions about patient tolerability and
- 21 compliance and clinical utility. The experts have been
- 22 compensated for their time.

- I would now like to turn the presentation 1 over to Dr. Ratjen. Unmet Medical Need 2 3 DR. RATJEN: Thank you. I would like to disclose that I act as a consultant for Pharmaxis and have been reimbursed for activities like this one. 5 So I appreciate the opportunity to provide a 6 7 background on cystic fibrosis, since I have dedicated much of my professional life to the study and treatment of this debilitating disease. As you already have 10 heard and probably know, cystic fibrosis is an 11 autosomal recessive disease resulting from mutations in 12 CFTR. 13 Cystic fibrosis is one of the most common genetically inherited diseases. In the United States, 14 it is considered an orphan disease affecting more than 15 16 30,000 patients, and about 1,000 new cases are diagnosed each year, nowadays mostly by newborn 17
- 21 And these incremental improvements in life

approximately 38 years in the U.S. today.

screening. And despite significant advances in

treatment, the estimated median life expectancy is

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22 expectancy have been the result of multiple modest

- 1 improvements in therapy. Still, the overall morbidity
- 2 and mortality of cystic fibrosis patients remains
- 3 unacceptably high.
- 4 Cystic fibrosis is a multi-organ disease, but
- 5 the lungs remain the most severely affected organ with
- 6 exacerbations and infections accounting for 75 percent
- 7 of hospitalizations, and 90 percent of deaths
- 8 associated with cystic fibrosis.
- 9 Lung disease is progressive in cystic
- 10 fibrosis patients, and lung function declines over
- 11 time, and this is measured by FEV1. As shown here on
- 12 the left side of the graph, in children with cystic
- 13 fibrosis nowadays most children have lung function in
- 14 the normal range.
- 15 So the goal of cystic fibrosis therapy is to
- 16 minimize and/or delay lung function decline over time.
- 17 And exacerbations and infections contribute to lung
- 18 function decline and increase in incidence as the
- 19 disease progresses. They have also been linked to
- 20 overall disease mortality. Therefore, lessening
- 21 exacerbation is an important goal of therapy.
- Let's now examine the cystic fibrosis disease

- 1 pathophysiology. So mutation of CFTR causes a cascade
- 2 of consequences. CFTR dysfunction causes depletion of
- 3 airway surface liquid. This dehydration leads directly
- 4 to increased stickiness of airway mucus, and this
- 5 results in impaired mucociliary clearance, which is an
- 6 important defense mechanism to maintain normal lung
- 7 hygiene. And poor clearance causes mucus obstruction
- 8 and chronic airway obstruction.
- 9 Mucus retention then favors bacterial
- 10 colonization and persistence of infection, and
- 11 bacterial infection results in chronic inflammation,
- 12 which is an important cause of lung damage. And this
- 13 vicious cycle of infection and inflammation is
- 14 initiated by mucus retention, leading to degradation of
- 15 lung structure and function, and ultimately
- 16 contributing to the untimely death of our patients.
- 17 And this highlights the importance of airway
- 18 clearance as a mechanism to improve lung health in
- 19 cystic fibrosis.
- 20 So strategies for CF therapies have been
- 21 outlined in current guidelines. These include DNase,
- 22 bronchodilators, inhaled antibiotics, as well as

- 1 macrolides, which work lower in the cystic fibrosis
- 2 cascade, treating the symptoms of the disease. Our
- 3 desire is to find treatments that work higher in the
- 4 pathophysiological cascade, working directly on CFTR,
- 5 like ivacaftor.
- 6 Ivacaftor works to potentiate the CFTR
- 7 protein, so that rehydration of the airway and airway
- 8 clearance are improved. However, it has only been
- 9 proven effective for about four percent of the CF
- 10 patients that have one specific genotype. Thus, a
- 11 medical need exists for treatment that intervenes early
- 12 in the disease cascade to improve airway clearance.
- 13 Such a treatment should be available to all patients,
- 14 regardless of age or disease severity, to improve lung
- 15 function and reduce exacerbations.
- So one of these possibilities is to improve
- 17 mucociliary clearance by hydrating the airway surface
- 18 liquid. There is currently no approved therapy that
- 19 addresses mucociliary clearance. Hypertonic saline,
- 20 while not approved, is recommended in the cystic
- 21 fibrosis guidelines. However, its tolerability varies
- 22 and nebulization is time-consuming; thus, the need for

- 1 new treatments such as mannitol that can be added to
- 2 current therapy to increase surface liquid, airway
- 3 surface liquid, and to improve mucociliary clearance in
- 4 a convenient fashion.
- 5 So while these products are recommended by
- 6 the CF guidelines, not every patient will be treated
- 7 with all available products. Due to the progressive
- 8 nature of the disease, we, as clinicians, try each
- 9 product in an effort to maintain lung function over
- 10 time.
- 11 So how do we arrive at the best therapy for
- 12 each patient? So the factors that lead to
- 13 individualized treatment are response, tolerability,
- 14 and acceptability by patients. Yet we also need to
- 15 consider the enormous treatment burden facing our CF
- 16 patients, and much of that treatment burden has to do
- 17 with the many challenges of nebulized therapy.
- 18 Some publications cite that patients perform
- 19 an average of seven therapies per day and spend almost
- 20 two hours each day with inhaled therapies like domase
- 21 alpha or antibiotics. Nebulizer therapy also limits
- 22 the mobility of patients, and ease of use and

- 1 portability become important considerations.
- 2 So, in addition, setup and cleaning of
- 3 nebulizers is time-consuming, and only a third of
- 4 patients actually follow recommended cleaning
- 5 procedures. So nebulizers can actually become
- 6 contaminated with bacteria, leading to a further risk
- 7 of infection.
- 8 So it is a challenge for many cystic fibrosis
- 9 patients. They want to feel better by their treatment,
- 10 but it is so burdensome that they fail to fully comply.
- 11 So additional options are needed; however, only if
- 12 these treatments don't add burden to our already
- 13 burdened patients.
- So we need options that can be added to
- 15 patients' current management, be it a child or an
- 16 adult, to improve lung health. And a key goal in
- 17 treating cystic fibrosis is to improve airway clearance
- 18 by enhancing mucociliary clearance.
- 19 When I am talking to my patients, I say
- 20 maintaining lung function over time is a good thing,
- 21 but improvements are even better. Thus, any sustained
- 22 incremental improvement in lung function is important

- 1 to both physicians and to our patients. Similarly, as
- 2 exacerbations drive lung function decline, any
- 3 reduction in exacerbations are equally important.
- 4 These actions help to slow the decline in lung function
- 5 and have been linked to relative improvements in
- 6 morbidity and mortality.
- 7 Finally, additional therapies should not add
- 8 significant burden of treatment. Even optimal
- 9 therapies don't work if the patients don't use them.
- 10 Simply put, poor adherence leads to impaired control of
- 11 the disease. Therefore, effective therapy that patients
- 12 willingly continue to take is desired by both patients
- 13 and their clinicians.
- 14 Thank you. I will now turn the presentation
- 15 over to Dr. Fox. Efficacy
- DR. FOX: Thank you, Professor Ratjen. I'm
- 17 Howard Fox, chief medical officer at Pharmaxis. I'd
- 18 like to present data from the dry powder mannitol
- 19 program that is representative of the cystic fibrosis
- 20 population, including that of the United States.
- 21 The data is consistent with an effect derived
- 22 from improved airway clearance and supports why the

- 1 clinical benefits of DPM at the 400 milligram dose are
- 2 clinically meaningful. I will first provide a brief
- 3 overview of the clinical program, followed by a more
- 4 detailed description of the Phase III study designs,
- 5 and then I will present data from Study 301 followed by
- 6 302. And then, finally, I will share subgroup analyses
- 7 based on the pooled data.
- Now, the challenging nature of studies in
- 9 this orphan disease means that the studies must be
- 10 interpreted based on the entirety of evidence rather
- 11 than FEV1 alone. I will also address two important
- 12 topics needing consideration.
- 13 Firstly, I will present the detailed review
- 14 of the sensitivity analyses showing why we can conclude
- 15 that there is a significant effect in CF-301 despite a
- 16 higher- than-expected withdrawal rate; secondly, why,
- 17 despite the primary endpoint narrowly missing
- 18 statistical significance in CF-302, it does show a
- 19 meaningful effect.
- Now, DPM's program in cystic fibrosis is
- 21 comprised of five studies. In the Phase II program,
- 22 Study 201 compared 420 milligrams of mannitol twice

- 1 daily to placebo in a two-week crossover design. 202
- 2 was a dose ranging study, again crossover, comparing
- 3 doses between 40 and 400 milligrams twice daily. And
- 4 Study 203 compared open-label DPM to rhDNase and their
- 5 combination.
- 6 CF-301 and 302 formed the Phase III program,
- 7 which I will later describe in more detail and which
- 8 form the basis of the application.
- 9 Now, I should point out that the control in
- 10 the Phase III program was a 50 milligram dose of
- 11 mannitol.
- Now, I will now provide you with the Phase II
- 13 results that support our proposed dosing. This figure
- 14 summarizes the dose ranging results from CF-202 with
- 15 change in FVC on the Y-axis and the four doses from 40
- 16 to 400 milligrams studied.
- Now, this study supports the choice of the
- 18 400 milligram dose for DPM in the NDA. And although we
- 19 did not confirm that this was a maximally effective
- 20 dose, we considered that more than 10 capsules with one
- 21 dose may not be acceptable. The 40 milligram dose
- 22 suggests that the 50 milligram control dose used

- 1 subsequently in the Phase III studies is likely to have
- 2 been subtherapeutic.
- Moving on then to the Phase III trials, which
- 4 formed one of the largest programs conducted in this
- 5 orphan designated disease, and that included 139
- 6 patients from 28 centers in the United States. The two
- 7 Phase III studies were of near identical design, both
- 8 being multi- center, double-blind, controlled, six-
- 9 month safety and efficacy studies that were randomized
- 10 in a three-to-two ratio.
- 11 Patients had confirmed diagnosis of cystic
- 12 fibrosis, were six years or older. The FEV1s were in
- 13 the 30 to 90 percent predicted range, 40 percent in the
- 14 case of 302. All standard approved therapy was
- 15 allowed, and regular therapy had to remain unchanged
- 16 throughout the studies.
- 17 Hypertonic saline was not allowed for reasons
- 18 of confounding data. Like hypertonic saline, mannitol
- 19 can provoke bronchial hyperactivity in people who are
- 20 sensitive. And, therefore, all study patients first
- 21 had to pass a mannitol tolerance test, or MTT.
- 22 Also, patients were routinely pre-dosed with

- 1 a bronchial dilator, such as albuterol, both prior to
- 2 testing and before study drug administration throughout
- 3 the study's duration. This schematic shows each study
- 4 starting with the screening visit, which included the
- 5 MTT, and randomization also took place at this point.
- 6 And then there was a two- to five-week period
- 7 before the start of study drug, the RTT comprised of
- 8 randomized patients who had received at least one dose
- 9 of study drug. From baseline, patients received either
- 10 400 milligrams of mannitol or 50 milligrams control, as
- 11 10 capsules twice daily, for the 26 weeks of the
- 12 double- blind phase, during which time patients were
- 13 reassessed, including by spirometry, at weeks 6, 14,
- 14 and 26.
- And then, at the end of the 26 weeks,
- 16 patients could enter an open-label phase where they all
- 17 received 400 milligrams twice daily in addition to
- 18 their standard care.
- 19 So moving on to the results from the pivotal
- 20 study, CF-301, and I'll begin with endpoints. Here the
- 21 primary endpoint was change from baseline in FEV1 over
- 22 the 26-week, double-blind study period. FEV1 is a

- 1 widely accepted primary variable in CF studies, and its
- 2 decline is associated with both increased morbidity and
- 3 mortality
- 4 Clinically relevant secondary variables included other
- 5 lung function parameters such as forced vital capacity
- 6 and exacerbations. Now, these collected based on Fuchs
- 7 criteria, which included a requirement of intravenous
- 8 antibiotic use. And we also evaluated sputum weight.
- 9 Key endpoints were also evaluated by rhDNase
- 10 use subgroups, and there were also some post-hoc
- 11 analyses, but my slides here will indicate any not
- 12 planned prospectively.
- The primary endpoint, FEV1, was analyzed by a
- 14 mixed model repeated measures, or MMRM, and that's
- 15 based upon change from baseline at the three visits
- 16 over 26 weeks. Now, the MMRM analysis does require at
- 17 least one followup measure for a patient to be
- 18 included. And, therefore, the ITT population could not
- 19 be used for this particular analysis.
- Therefore, the primary analysis, as dictated
- 21 by this pre-specified model, is the full analysis set,
- 22 or FAS. The FDA, in their briefing book, referred to

- 1 the primary analysis population as the Pharmaxis MITT.
- 2 Where feasible, the ITT population, which is the same
- 3 as the FDA ITT, was used for other measures. The ITT
- 4 population was also used for the sensitivity analyses
- 5 of the primary endpoint.
- 6 Now, the intent to treat population comprised
- 7 295 patients, and the full analysis set totaled 272.
- 8 And I'd like to walk you through how we get to those
- 9 numbers.
- 10 So, firstly, 378 patients were screened. The
- 11 most common reason for not being randomized, in 27
- 12 patients of those screened, was due to a failed MTT to
- 13 the 400 milligram dose. And this represents 7.1
- 14 percent of those screened.
- Twenty-nine of the 324 randomized patients
- 16 withdrew before receiving study drug, with only five
- 17 due to adverse events, leaving us with 295 patients
- 18 meeting the ITT definition.
- 19 Study 301 ITT contained 177 patients on DPM
- 20 and 118 on control. From the ITT, 18 of the DPM
- 21 patients and five on control withdrew before week six,
- 22 meaning that 159 patients on DPM and 113 on control

- 1 made up the full analysis set. Therefore, the full
- 2 analysis set used to calculate the primary endpoint is
- 3 based upon 92.2 percent of the ITT.
- 4 Now, between week six and the end of the
- 5 double- blind phase, a further 47 patients in the DPM
- 6 group and 27 in the control have withdrawn, leaving 112
- 7 completers in the DPM group and 86 in the control.
- 8 Now, the overall withdrawal rate was high, although it
- 9 was comparable to the 27 percent seen in a recent CF
- 10 study in tobramycin.
- 11 The most common reason for withdrawal was
- 12 withdrawal of consent, which was more common in the
- 13 control arm. And next was adverse event, which was
- 14 twice as common in the DPM arm.
- The demographics now in CF-301 were balanced
- 16 between arms and reasonably representative of the CF
- 17 population over six years of age, and is on average of
- 18 moderate severity based on FEV1 percent predicted.
- 19 rhDNase and inhaled antibiotic use was
- 20 widespread, reflecting best standard of care.
- Now, the primary endpoint result, using
- 22 methodology as set out in our statistical analysis

- 1 plan, supports the efficacy of DPM. The FEV1 change
- 2 from baseline is shown here in mLs on the Y-axis.
- 3 Study 301 successfully demonstrated a significant
- 4 improvement of 83 mLs compared to control over the
- 5 double-blind 26-week study period, with a P value of
- 6 less .001, remembering this is also over and above by
- 7 standard of care.
- Now, the pivotal studies were designed to
- 9 evaluate the effect over the six months. However,
- 10 post- hoc we examined the FEV1 changes also at each
- 11 time point. And these support the maximum effect on
- 12 FEV1 change had already been reached by the first
- 13 followup visit at week six, and the data also supports
- 14 an improvement from baseline still being sustained up
- 15 to six months.
- Now, as withdrawal was unbalanced between
- 17 groups, which may not have been random, we do recognize
- 18 the potential to bias the results. And it's important
- 19 that we consider the impact of unbalanced withdrawal on
- 20 our estimate of effect size. And, therefore, in the
- 21 next series of slides, I will go through in some detail
- 22 how we address this.

- 1 The primary model MMRM imputes for missing
- 2 data as shown with the dotted lines in this figure, and
- 3 assumes missing data are missing but random. However,
- 4 this may or may not be the case. And, therefore, the
- 5 possibility of bias can't be excluded. And this is
- 6 particularly true for any patients withdrawing in the
- 7 first six weeks of the study who did so before any
- 8 post- baseline FEV1 data was collected, to inform
- 9 whether they were improving or worsening when they
- 10 left.
- And in fact, the greater number of patients
- 12 in the DPM arm withdrawing before week six compared to
- 13 control was the main driver of differential dropouts,
- 14 and this was mainly due to adverse events. These
- 15 patients are not part of the FAS.
- 16 Importantly, however, 92 percent of the ITT
- 17 population did contribute data to the primary analysis
- 18 based on the FAS, limiting the degree of likely bias.
- 19 From six weeks onwards, the rate of withdrawal was
- 20 comparable between treatment groups. And as we do have
- 21 spirometry from week six, we can examine their final
- 22 FEV1 status and compare between treatment arms.

So each line on these figures represent a 1 patient who withdraw prematurely from the full analysis set. DPM patients are shown on the left with blue 3 lines, and on the right control in green. It shows their last FEV1 measure prior to withdrawal, either at 5 week six or 14. The average improvements from baseline were greater in the DPM arm at 71.7 mLs, compared to the average change of 6.7 mLs in the control arm. 9 So although we have no spirometry data in 10 patients prior to week six, this might also suggest 11 that some patients withdrawing early were not worsening 12 either. Now, to reassure that the conclusion from the 13 primary analysis based upon the FAS population is still 14 valid, sensitivity analyses were conducted. And we 15 16 agree with the FDA that it is desirable to use the ITT

Our sensitivity analysis does address this,

should be accounted for.

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21 and the application of penalties to the MMRM model, and

when evaluating the primary efficacy endpoint, and that

the missing data, as a result of differential dropouts,

22 the use of baseline observation carried forward, we

- 1 believe are particularly useful approaches.
- Now, you may be aware that at the request of
- 3 FDA the National Research Council produced an expert
- 4 report on treatment of missing data in clinical trials,
- 5 a summary of which was published in The New England
- 6 Journal in October last year. The NRC acknowledged
- 7 that there is no universal method for handling missing
- 8 data, but they favored multiple imputation models,
- 9 because available information about the missing data
- 10 can be included into the final analysis set.
- 11 To assess robustness, they recommended patent
- 12 mixture models of sensitivity analysis. The NRC
- 13 considered that if the treatment effect can be shown to
- 14 be maintained, despite a range of clinically plausible
- 15 penalties, then the findings are robust.
- Now, in keeping with NRC recommendations, our
- 17 sensitivity analysis allowed for different ways to
- 18 impute missing data that does include the whole ITT,
- 19 unlike the primary, which is based on the full analysis
- 20 set. The data were analyzed longitudinally over the
- 21 whole treatment period by MMRM, which included using
- 22 multiple imputation, and by matching the patients with

- 1 missing data with other patients who had similar
- 2 baseline features. The missing data could be imputed
- 3 in a meaningful manner.
- 4 Importantly, the patent mixture model, using
- 5 multiple imputation, included a penalty of 20 mLs for
- 6 every missed visit in subjects who withdrew from the
- 7 ITT population. So rather than model only imputing for
- 8 missing data, as I showed earlier, a penalty is applied
- 9 for every missing value. In this hypothetical example
- 10 shown here, a patient leaving before week six will
- 11 accumulate three penalties of 20 mLs each.
- So I would like to run through the results
- 13 now of the sensitivity analysis. Firstly, this forest
- 14 plot prevents a sensitivity analysis of the primary
- 15 endpoint using MMRM over 26 weeks, first showing the
- 16 pre-planned primary estimate in the FAS population,
- 17 recognize that the potential for bias can never be
- 18 excluded.
- 19 Nevertheless, all of these sensitivity
- 20 analyses support the primary finding of a significant
- 21 increase in FEV1. Remember, the patent mixture model
- 22 of MMRM, using ITT, is highlighted here, penalizes

- 1 withdrawals by 20 mLs each missing visit, and does,
- 2 therefore, provide some reassurance regarding the
- 3 effect estimate over 26 weeks.
- 4 Now, we also explored the tipping point in
- 5 the ITT population at which DPM would no longer show a
- 6 significant effect. To do this, the penalty at each
- 7 missing time point is increased up to the point that
- 8 statistical significance is lost. Now, this table
- 9 shows what happens when we stress tested the data even
- 10 more. We increased the size of penalty shown in the
- 11 left-hand column for each missing visit in the patent
- 12 mixture model up until the point where significance is
- 13 lost.
- The penalty would need to be more than 450
- 15 mLs at each missing time point before the effect
- 16 estimate is reduced to 55 mLs and is no longer
- 17 significant. This means that each patient leaving
- 18 before week six could be penalized by 1,350 mLs. A
- 19 tipping point requiring such a large volume does not
- 20 seem plausible.
- 21 We challenged the robustness even further,
- 22 again using the same patent mixture model, but this

- 1 time identifying a tipping point when only penalizing
- 2 the DPM arm but not control. Even applying this
- 3 extreme method, the tipping point needed to reach 150
- 4 mLs before significance was lost. Now, this means that
- 5 even patients withdrawing before week six in the
- 6 control arm carry no penalty at all, but, similarly,
- 7 DPM withdrawals being penalized by 450 mLs.
- 8 Data were also analyzed cross-sectionally by
- 9 ANVOCA at week 26, again using the ITT. And this
- 10 includes baseline observation carried forward, which
- 11 assumes the patients leaving early revert back to
- 12 baseline.
- Now, I have already shown you that where data
- 14 is available after week six DPM patients who withdrew
- 15 were, on average, improving. BOCF is, therefore,
- 16 likely to be providing a conservative lower estimate of
- 17 overall treatment effect using the whole ITT.
- 18 So this forest plot represents the cross-
- 19 sectional analysis using ANCOVA in the whole ITT at
- 20 week 26. Now, this includes baseline observation
- 21 carried forward, conservatively assuming that patients
- 22 leaving early revert back to baseline. And yet this

- 1 remains meaningful and significant.
- 2 So although no end of sensitivity iterations
- 3 can ever provide certainty on the exact effect
- 4 estimate, there does seem to be a real effect that is
- 5 likely to be at least 60 mLs.
- 6 This study was, however, designed and powered
- 7 to look at FEV1 as a continuous variable, taking all
- 8 values into account. And this is widely recognized as
- 9 the best approach to assess a primary variable,
- 10 especially when there is no agreed threshold to define
- 11 a response.
- The FDA's dichotomous approach of response or
- 13 no response assumes that there is a value above or
- 14 below which there is an effect. For example, someone
- 15 within a 99 mL improvement may be classed a non-
- 16 responder, but somebody with 101 mL improvement is
- 17 treated in the opposite way. And as a result, a huge
- 18 amount of power is lost.
- 19 The power using BOCF as a continuous variable
- 20 at week 26 to detect a 59 mL difference is 71 percent.
- 21 But the power decreases to only 24 percent when the
- 22 same data are dichotomized to evaluate a 100 mL

- 1 response.
- Now, as withdrawal rates were quite high in
- 3 Study 301, and greater in the DPM arm, it is not
- 4 surprising that a significant difference at a single
- 5 26- week time point using a dichotomous approach wasn't
- 6 seen. Pharmaxis' view is that using the whole data
- 7 available in the ITT population at each time point is
- 8 more informative than basing any decision on arbitrary
- 9 thresholds of response at single time points, while
- 10 nevertheless recognizing that the responder approach
- 11 used in the FDA briefing book can provide supportive
- 12 perspective.
- 13 This table shows the FEV1 responder analysis,
- 14 but in the right-hand column includes the response
- 15 rates in patients who completed the 26-week study and
- 16 do, therefore, seem to tolerate DPM.
- Now, while we cannot make claims of efficacy
- 18 based only on completers, importantly, DPM completers
- 19 are the group most likely to reflect the population
- 20 that would use DPM long term. The reality of managing
- 21 chronic conditions, in particular in CF, where there is
- 22 such a high pre-existing treatment burden, is that many

- 1 patients will not continue treatment long term if they
- 2 experience tolerability issues.
- 3 We acknowledge that DPM is not a treatment
- 4 for all patients. But as recognized by Dr. Ratjen, CF
- 5 treatment is routinely highly individualized.
- I would now like to share some data using
- 7 secondary variables. The forced vital capacity shown
- 8 here followed a very similar pattern to FEV1, and these
- 9 mirror changes are consistent with DPM's intended
- 10 action; that is, FEV1 improvements are resulting from
- 11 improved airway clearance and unplugging.
- Now, although FEV1 provides a useful
- 13 surrogate measure, exacerbations are also a key
- 14 variable in CF, and they cause challenges both acutely
- 15 and long term leading to permanent declines in lung
- 16 function.
- Now, they are usually infrequent, though,
- 18 meaning that exacerbation is a challenging variable to
- 19 detect treatment difference. And it is simply
- 20 impractical in CF to undertake individual studies of
- 21 adequate size to detect clinically important reductions
- 22 as a primary endpoint.

We tried to use the most objective definition 1 of an exacerbation available to us at the time, and 2 that was as previously published by Fuchs. And this 3 required the occurrence of at least four of a possible 12 criteria, as well as intravenous antibiotic use. 5 The risk of patients experiencing at least 6 one exacerbation in the ITT population was reduced in a post- hoc analysis by 35 percent compared to control. There were also positive trends in rate reduction and 10 time to first event using hazard ratio. Consistent with this trend was a 34 percent 11 lower rate of rescue antibiotic use, but no real 12 reduction in hospitalization rate. Presumably, a 13 reduction in exacerbation-related events is coming from 14 improved ventilation and less stagnant mucus as a 15 16 result of improved airway clearance. And, indeed, this is supported with post-dose sputum weight from the ITT 17 18 population shown here, which was greater than control. 19 I will now discuss the study results of CF-20 302. The primary endpoint of 302 was also changed from baseline in FEV1 over the 26 weeks. Secondary 21

endpoints were hierarchical and included the

22

- 1 requirement of a significant primary effect. And I
- 2 will show you the P values for the pre-planned
- 3 analysis, but these are then for descriptive purposes
- 4 only.
- 5 Endpoints included are the lung function
- 6 parameters, FEV1, in rhDNase users, and sputum weight.
- 7 Exacerbations using the earlier Fuchs definition were
- 8 also explored.
- 9 Now, the intent to treat population comprised
- 10 of 305 patients and the full analysis set totaled 297
- 11 patients; 341 were screened, 14 patients had a failed
- 12 MTT, representing 4.1 percent of those screened.
- 13 Thirteen of the 318 randomized patients withdrew before
- 14 receiving study drug, giving us an ITT of 305, which
- 15 consisted of 184 patients in DPM and 121 from control.
- Seven patients from DPM and one from control
- 17 withdrew prior to week six. So with few patients
- 18 withdrawing before week six, the full analysis set is
- 19 now based on 97.4 percent of the ITT. Between week six
- 20 and the end of the double-blind phase, a further 24
- 21 patients on DPM and 13 on control have withdrawn.
- Now, but applying what we learned from CF-

- 1 301, the withdrawal rate was lower in this study. The
- 2 most common reasons for withdrawal were subjects
- 3 withdrawing consent and adverse events, both of which
- 4 were more frequent in the DPM arm.
- Now, 302 included more younger patients than
- 6 301, but was, again, reasonably balanced between groups
- 7 and representative of the intended CF population. And
- 8 this study included U.S. centers, which contributed to
- 9 a higher rhDNase use overall. Antibiotic use was
- 10 similar and, again, reflected best standard of care.
- So moving on to the results shown in the same
- 12 way as for 301, although numerically in favor of DPM in
- 13 Study 302, the difference in FEV1 by mLs between the
- 14 two treatment groups was not statistically significant.
- 15 Although as presented in the FDA briefing book, the
- 16 responder rates do support the true benefit.
- Despite the primarily narrowly missing
- 18 statistical significance, the patent suggesting a
- 19 continued clinical benefit was also seen in this study.
- 20 Interestingly, the FDA's respond approach based at week
- 21 26 only is less conservative in this study, because the
- 22 treatment effect at this visit is quite a bit greater

- 1 than the average effect based on all three visits.
- 2 The sensitivity analysis seems less critical
- 3 to CF-302, and the lower withdrawal rate in this study
- 4 does mean that the MMRM method is more robust than in
- 5 301. The sensitivity analysis, therefore, runs
- 6 surprisingly perhaps quite consistent with the estimate
- 7 using the primary method. But as pointed out in the
- 8 previous slide, using ANCOVA at week 26 may not be so
- 9 conservative in this study.
- 10 The trends in 302 endpoints were mainly
- 11 supportive of a positive effect. Like 301, the forced
- 12 vital capacity followed the same pattern as FEV1 and is
- 13 consistent with an improved airway clearance. The risk
- 14 of patients experiencing at least one exacerbation
- 15 requiring IV antibiotics was reduced by 20 percent
- 16 compared to control, but this difference was not
- 17 significant. That was -- neither was statistically
- 18 significant. We again saw supportive trends of reduced
- 19 antibiotic use and a 25 percent reduction in
- 20 hospitalization rate.
- 21 And as shown in this figure, the post-dose
- 22 sputum weight was again greater in the DPM arm in this

- 1 study.
- Now, as Study 302 was the only one to include
- 3 U.S. patients, I have included in this figure the post-
- 4 hoc findings from the U.S. subgroups shown on the
- 5 right- hand side. The change from baseline in the DPM
- 6 arm is remarkably consistent with both of the pivotal
- 7 studies overall. The data provides some reassurance
- 8 that the overall findings are applicable to CF patients
- 9 in the United States.
- 10 So moving on now to efficacy by subgroups.
- 11 Statistical significance should of course be based on
- 12 the overall population. And apart from the rhDNase
- 13 user subgroup, the trials were now powered to establish
- 14 efficacy by individual subgroups.
- Now, since these are fundamentally identical
- 16 studies with comparable efficacy, I am going to present
- 17 the pooled data to maximize the size of subgroup
- 18 studied.
- 19 Now, as shown in this table, none of the
- 20 interaction terms were significant by subgroups. And
- 21 as this is consistent with the mode of action of
- 22 improved mucociliary clearance being applicable to all

- 1 CF patients studied, the possibility of a heterogeneous
- 2 therapeutic response seems small.
- 3 The subgroup FEV1 differences, compared to
- 4 control, nearly all trend in favor of DPM. And this
- 5 forest plot presents the FEV1 pooled data, shown
- 6 firstly as overall, then split by age group, then
- 7 rhDNase, gender, and, lastly, by severity based upon
- 8 FEV1 percent predicted at baseline. And almost all
- 9 favored DPM except in the final subgroup, FEV1, 40
- 10 percent predicted or less.
- 11 Now, confidence intervals by severity do all
- 12 overlap, and there is no pattern of reducing effect
- 13 with worsening severity, and some variability is
- 14 expected. But the data -- so the data do not suggest a
- 15 heterogeneous treatment. Nevertheless, there was a
- 16 suggestion of less effect in the subgroup studied below
- 17 40 percent predicted.
- 18 Now, you have been specifically asked to
- 19 consider benefit by age group, but the overlapping
- 20 confidence intervals and lack of significant
- 21 interaction term by age does not support a real
- 22 difference in effect between the age groups, although,

- 1 as expected in children with CF, variability was
- 2 greater in younger patients.
- 3 So finally, then, to sum up. The data shows
- 4 sustained and meaningful FEV1 improvements in CF
- 5 patients age six years and above, and that these
- 6 improvements are consistent with the mechanism of
- 7 action as supported by other improvements in
- 8 exacerbation risk as well as forced vital capacity and
- 9 sputum weight.
- 10 Studies in this orphan disease are
- 11 challenging, and any decision regarding useful effect
- 12 really should be interpreted based on the entirety of
- 13 evidence. Furthermore, DPM's useful effect is seen on
- 14 top of standard care in patients both above and below
- 15 18 years of age in this orphan disease.
- So thank you, and I will now pass over to Dr.
- 17 Charlton to present the safety data. Safety
- 18 DR. CHARLTON: Thank you. I am Brett
- 19 Charlton, medical director at Pharmaxis.
- The DPM safety profile has been well
- 21 characterized over three Phase II and two Phase III
- 22 studies in 713 CF patients, including 335 children.

- 1 These studies have included a diverse range of patient
- 2 demographics, seeing similar results regardless of age
- 3 or gender.
- 4 The Phase III cystic fibrosis data is a large
- 5 safety data set for this orphan population. Five
- 6 hundred forty-one subjects were exposed to DPM,
- 7 including 361 subjects during the double-blind phase
- 8 and an additional 180 subjects changing from control to
- 9 DPM during the open-label extension.
- In total, there has been 370 patient-years of
- 11 exposure to DPM. Also included in the safety program
- 12 were 240 patients with at least 48 weeks of exposure
- 13 during which no new safety signals became apparent.
- 14 The data from these controlled studies best represents
- 15 the safety profile of DPM.
- 16 We will focus this safety presentation on the
- 17 issues highlighted by the FDA in their briefing book.
- 18 First, the active and only ingredient in each DPM
- 19 capsule is mannitol, which is generally recognized as a
- 20 safe product. Because the dosage is much less than
- 21 allowable dietary intake, DPM safety is focused on
- 22 local lung effects. As noted by the FDA, the extensive

- 1 non-clinical data support the safety of DPM for its
- 2 intended use, so I will proceed to clinical data.
- 3 Let's first briefly address laboratory
- 4 findings, including sputum microbiology. Clinical
- 5 parameters and laboratory measures were monitored at
- 6 each study visit. Overall, laboratory abnormalities
- 7 were similar in both treatment groups and were
- 8 attributed by the investigator to CF-related disease.
- 9 Infections in the sputum were of interest, since
- 10 infections are common in cystic fibrosis.
- In addition, there was a hypothesized risk
- 12 that inhaled mannitol could lead to infections of the
- 13 respiratory tract. Therefore, we actively investigated
- 14 this situation. However, sputum flora was unchanged by
- 15 DPM treatment. Qualitative sputum microbiology showed
- 16 no overall change in growth and no difference in growth
- 17 between DPM and control.
- 18 So now let's address adverse events. This
- 19 table shows the most common adverse events reported.
- 20 The overall event rate is similar across the treatment
- 21 arms, and for the most part the type of events are what
- 22 would be expected in a CF population.

Most of these events were more frequent on control than DPM. When looking at the adverse events 2 occurring with at least a one percent greater frequency 3 in the DPM group than in the control group, we see cough, pharyngolaryngeal pain, hemoptysis, and 5 vomiting. As noted in the FDA briefing book, most of the adverse events seen were of either mild or moderate intensity and were likely related to tolerability and ability to remain on therapy. 10 This table shows all of the serious adverse 11 events with an incidence greater than one percent by 12 preferred term. As you can see, the overall incidence of serious adverse events was lower in the DPM arm than 13 in the control arm. Hemoptysis was the only serious 14 adverse event that was more frequent in the DPM group. 15 16 Hemoptysis will be discussed in more detail later in the presentation. 17 18 Here we see the most common adverse events that led to discontinuation. Discontinuation due to 19 20 adverse events was more frequent in the DPM group than control; 11.4 percent of DPM patients versus 6.3 21

percent of control patients discontinued from the study

22

- 1 due to an adverse event.
- 2 The causes for discontinuation in at least
- 3 one percent of subjects were cough, condition
- 4 aggravated, and hemoptysis. All cases resolved
- 5 following discontinuation.
- 6 Although a discontinuation due to condition
- 7 aggravated appears more common on DPM, the overall
- 8 incidence was lower in DPM-treated patients. The
- 9 overall adverse event profile is similar across all age
- 10 groups when we group patients as those age six to 17
- 11 years, and adults age 18 years and above.
- 12 There are no major differences in the
- 13 relative incidence of overall adverse events between
- 14 the group age six to 17 years and the adult population.
- 15 Importantly, the incidence of serious adverse events
- 16 was lower on DPM than control in six- to 17-year-olds
- 17 and adult patients. More DPM than control subjects
- 18 withdrew due to adverse events in both age groups.
- 19 Based on the clinical experience with
- 20 mannitol to date, we identified several adverse events
- 21 for special review. These are either known adverse
- 22 events related to mannitol's mechanism of action and

- 1 mode of delivery or adverse events associated with
- 2 cystic fibrosis.
- We will focus on bronchospasm, cough, and
- 4 hemoptysis. Firstly, let's look at bronchospasm. A
- 5 mannitol tolerance test was undertaken at screening to
- 6 identify patients with bronchial hyperresponsiveness.
- 7 FEV1 was recorded as a direct measure of
- 8 bronchoconstriction. Seven hundred nineteen patients
- 9 were screened using the MTT for the Phase III studies.
- 10 Importantly, the falls in FEV1 measured
- 11 during the MTT were not large. 5.7 percent of patients
- 12 had falls greater than 20 percent, which met the
- 13 criteria for a test failure. In these patients with a
- 14 failed test, the mean fall in FEV1 was 25.6 percent.
- Now let's look at bronchospasm events during
- 16 treatment. Adverse events possibly associated with
- 17 bronchoconstriction on DPM during the treatment period
- 18 were not frequent, not severe, and were generally
- 19 transient. As already noted by the FDA, the frequency
- 20 of bronchoconstriction events was similar in DPM and
- 21 control groups.
- 22 Bronchospasm itself was a rare event reported

- 1 in only two DPM patients. Because of the known
- 2 association between DPM and potential
- 3 bronchoconstriction risk, the label recommends a
- 4 mandatory MTT to exclude patients with bronchial
- 5 hyperreactivity from any further treatment.
- 6 Although the subject risk of bronchospasm for
- 7 those patients passing the MTT appears low,
- 8 bronchospasm itself can be a serious event. In light
- 9 of this, we have requested a boxed warning on the
- 10 proposed label for DPM to include risk of severe
- 11 bronchospasm.
- Now let's move to cough. Cough was reported
- 13 in 21.1 percent of patients in the DPM group compared
- 14 to 16.7 percent of patients in the control group.
- 15 Cough was reported as a severe event in 2.2 percent of
- 16 subjects in the DPM group, and 1.7 percent of subjects
- 17 in the control group. There were no SAEs of cough
- 18 during the blinded studies.
- 19 Cough led to discontinuation from the study
- 20 in five percent of subjects in the DPM group, and in
- 21 2.5 percent of subjects in the control group. However,
- 22 most cough events were not severe. Cough, along with

- 1 pharyngolaryngeal pain, appears to be a tolerability
- 2 issue rather than a safety one.
- Now let's consider hemoptysis. Hemoptysis is
- 4 a common event in cystic fibrosis and is frequently
- 5 associated with pulmonary exacerbations. Treating
- 6 physicians are experienced in the recognition and
- 7 treatment of hemoptysis using established management
- 8 guidelines.
- 9 The amount of blood in the sputum is
- 10 generally less than five mLs but can range to large
- 11 amounts. Although the majority of hemoptysis events are
- 12 usually mild, the incidence of hemoptysis has been
- 13 reported to increase with disease severity and patient
- 14 age. The main risk is with massive hemoptysis events,
- 15 which are infrequent but can be fatal. Notably, there
- 16 were no fatalities throughout the trial program.
- 17 Hemoptysis adverse events were reported more
- 18 frequently on DPM than control. Overall, 9.4 percent
- 19 of patients on DPM reported hemoptysis compared to 5.4
- 20 percent of patients on control. The median duration of
- 21 all events was less than one day in both treatment
- 22 groups. All events resolved, regardless of treatment

- 1 allocation.
- 2 This table shows the breakdown of hemoptysis
- 3 events by severity. The majority of hemoptysis adverse
- 4 events were reported as either mild or moderate
- 5 severity by the cystic fibrosis investigator. This
- 6 figure shows the relative incidence of hemoptysis
- 7 adverse events between DPM and control groups split by
- 8 the subject's baseline FEV1.
- 9 The overall incidence of hemoptysis adverse
- 10 events increased with increasing disease severity and
- 11 was highest in those patients with FEV1 below 40
- 12 percent.
- 13 It should also be noted that hemoptysis is
- 14 frequently a component of exacerbations. These were
- 15 not always reported as adverse events. Because study
- 16 investigators were not specifically instructed to
- 17 report all hemoptysis episodes as adverse events, a
- 18 number of hemoptysis episodes occurring as a part of an
- 19 exacerbation were not separately reported as adverse
- 20 events.
- 21 As noted by the FDA in their briefing book,
- 22 it could be considered more accurate and meaningful to

- 1 consider these episodes, as well as the adverse events,
- 2 to determine the true incidence of hemoptysis.
- 3 However, it is recognized that those episodes only
- 4 reported as adverse events may be more clinically
- 5 significant.
- 6 Consequently, we present hemoptysis adverse
- 7 events and those episodes reported as part of an
- 8 exacerbation separately, as well as presenting the
- 9 combined incidence. For the overall safety population,
- 10 the incidence of hemoptysis adverse events was 9.4
- 11 percent on DPM and 5.4 percent on control.
- For those hemoptysis episodes associated with
- 13 exacerbations, the incidence was 3.9 percent and 7.9
- 14 percent for DPM and control, respectively. The total
- 15 incidence of hemoptysis episodes, including those
- 16 reported as a hemoptysis adverse event and those only
- 17 reported as part of an exacerbation, was comparable
- 18 between arms.
- 19 Now, look at this same data but split by ages
- 20 six to 17 and 18 years and above. There is an increase
- 21 in hemoptysis adverse events on DPM in six- to 17-year-
- 22 olds, with an incidence of 7.8 percent on DPM and 1.9

- 1 percent on control.
- 2 As with the overall population, there were a
- 3 number of hemoptysis events in this age group that were
- 4 reported as part of an exacerbation, but not as a
- 5 hemoptysis adverse event, accounting for 2.6 percent on
- 6 DPM and 5.7 percent on control.
- 7 We agree with the FDA that there is a signal
- 8 for hemoptysis in patients age six to 17 years, and we
- 9 recognize that in these younger patients this has
- 10 clinical significance. In adults, the incidence of
- 11 hemoptysis seems comparable for DPM and control.
- We do not know if hemoptysis is only limited
- 13 to patients at risk. However, we find that of the 16
- 14 patients age six to 17 years experiencing hemoptysis
- 15 during the studies all had risk factors. These
- 16 included reduced lung function with almost half having
- 17 an FEV1 less than 50 percent. Of the adverse events,
- 18 10 of the 12 were mild to moderate in severity.
- 19 Most hemoptysis events occurred as part of a
- 20 pulmonary exacerbation. And all patients had either a
- 21 previous history of hemoptysis or infectious risk
- 22 factors. Importantly, none of these subjects withdrew

- 1 from the study.
- Of the 12 hemoptysis adverse events in six-
- 3 to 17-year-olds, 10 were considered mild to moderate,
- 4 while two were severe. Three were considered serious
- 5 due to hospitalization for the associated exacerbation.
- 6 All of the events resolved, and no patients withdrew
- 7 from the studies due to hemoptysis.
- 8 In the 26-week clinical trials, the incidence
- 9 of massive hemoptysis was comparable between DPM and
- 10 control. There was one reported massive hemoptysis
- 11 event that occurred in the open-label trial two weeks
- 12 after completion of DPM treatment. Overall, there are
- 13 very few events, but the rates were similar to the six-
- 14 month rates reported in other published sources.
- So there appears to be a signal for increased
- 16 risk of hemoptysis on DPM, although the incidence of
- 17 massive events is not increased. The increased
- 18 hemoptysis signal appears to be associated more with
- 19 the six to 17 year age group.
- 20 Because hemoptysis is a recognized risk with
- 21 DPM, we are proposing to include relevant text in the
- 22 warnings and precautions section of the prescribing

- 1 information. This will alert physicians to the risks
- 2 and provide guidance regarding the need for careful
- 3 monitoring.
- 4 We would propose the clinical decisions,
- 5 including discontinuation of treatment, be based on
- 6 current CF Foundation guidelines. This would include
- 7 withholding DPM in the event of massive hemoptysis. In
- 8 addition, because of greater uncertainty surrounding
- 9 benefit/risk in patients with FEV1 less than 40
- 10 percent, it is to be recommended that there be a limit
- 11 -- this be a limitation to the indicated use.
- 12 Risk minimization efforts will continue to
- 13 focus on correct inhaler techniques to minimize
- 14 tolerability issues and associated adverse events. We
- 15 will also continue to educate patients on the
- 16 importance of adherence. We will accomplish this by
- 17 limiting distribution through established CF pharmacies
- 18 and certified CF centers who will provide point-of-care
- 19 support when initiating therapy.
- 20 Medical science liaison staff will provide
- 21 guidance on correct use of the MTT and minimization and
- 22 management of hemoptysis directly to health care

- 1 professionals. And beyond our standard
- 2 pharmacovigilance activities, we will collect and
- 3 assess detailed questionnaire information for
- 4 hemoptysis events, which will be periodically analyzed
- 5 to guide risk assessment.
- 6 We are also evaluating supportive post-
- 7 approval activities in pediatric patients that will
- 8 allow us to investigate the hemoptysis risk. We are
- 9 committed to doing a program to assess the pediatric
- 10 patients. Based on discussions with cystic fibrosis
- 11 experts, we believe that a registry program is the most
- 12 appropriate way to gather hemoptysis data.
- We are exploring with the Cystic Fibrosis
- 14 Foundation, who have the most comprehensive database
- 15 available in CF, about a format similar to the registry
- 16 already implemented in Europe. It is our intention to
- 17 discuss these activities with the FDA, along with the
- 18 feedback from our discussions today.
- 19 So to summarize the safety of DPM, an
- 20 extensive body of data describes the DPM safety
- 21 profile. The active ingredient is mannitol, which is
- 22 generally recognized as safe and supported by years of

- 1 safety experience.
- 2 The patent of adverse events observed in
- 3 patients was consistent with the disease state and with
- 4 the mode of study drug administration. While most
- 5 adverse events represent tolerability issues,
- 6 hemoptysis is identified as an adverse event of
- 7 interest, particularly in the six to 17 age group.
- 8 Although CF clinicians consider hemoptysis to
- 9 be manageable, we will directly address the safety
- 10 concern of hemoptysis within the label and as part of
- 11 our post- approval activities.
- 12 Thank you. I will now turn the presentation
- 13 over to Dr. Flume. Risk/Benefit and Clinical
- 14 Perspective
- DR. FLUME: Thank you. I disclose that I was
- 16 investigator on one of the trials presented today, and
- 17 I am being compensated for my time and travel.
- 18 So I come to you as a clinician with
- 19 considerable experience in cystic fibrosis. I have
- 20 more than 20 years of clinical experience, extensive
- 21 participation in CF clinical trials, and I was one of
- 22 the co-chairs of the original Pulmonary Guidelines

- 1 Committee.
- 2 You have heard the pathogenesis of CF lung
- 3 disease, and it is that vicious cycle of infection,
- 4 inflammation, and obstruction that causes progressive
- 5 decline in lung function and eventual respiratory
- 6 failure.
- 7 Here are demonstrated data from an actual
- 8 patient seen at our center, and you can see that this
- 9 young adult suffers acute drops in lung function.
- 10 These are typical of pulmonary exacerbations, and there
- 11 is an overall downward slope in lung function. So our
- 12 goals of therapy when we see patients like this are to
- 13 prevent these exacerbations and to slow the rate of
- 14 decline of lung function.
- Here again is the pathophysiology of lung
- 16 disease in cystic fibrosis. I cannot stress enough the
- 17 importance of clearance of airway secretions. Not only
- 18 does this relieve some of the airways obstruction, but
- 19 every drop of sputum contains millions of bacteria. So
- 20 coughing up a quarter cup of sputum unloads a lot of
- 21 infection as well as inflammation.
- Better yet, we need therapies that address

- 1 the pathophysiology further upstream in the hopes of
- 2 reducing or preventing the vicious cycle of infection
- 3 and inflammation. So when I look at a new medication
- 4 for my patients, there are three essential questions
- 5 that I ask. What is the evidence for efficacy? What is
- 6 the safety profile? And if the drug looks attractive
- 7 for my patients, how will I introduce it into their
- 8 regimen?
- 9 So let's look at DPM with respect to these
- 10 questions. Shown here are the changes in FEV1 from the
- 11 two trials. As you can see, there is an improvement in
- 12 lung function from baseline with the use of DPM by
- 13 about 110 to 120 mLs, or an overall treatment effect of
- 14 54 to 83 mLs when compared to the control. These are
- 15 clinically meaningful differences.
- 16 While the treated groups look similar between
- 17 the studies, the smaller treatment effect that we see
- 18 in CF-302 appears to be mainly the result of changes in
- 19 the control group.
- 20 With respect to the concern about the
- 21 dropouts in Study 301, I feel comfortable that DPM
- 22 provides efficacy as shown in the tipping point

- 1 analysis presented by Dr. Fox. The amount of lung
- 2 function that would have needed to drop to negate that
- 3 statistical significance is unrealistic. It is just
- 4 too much more than what we typically see in clinical
- 5 practice.
- 6 This treatment effect analysis is the way
- 7 that we typically evaluate CF results, and let me put
- 8 that into perspective by comparing these results to
- 9 those of other medications that we routinely use in the
- 10 care of our CF patients.
- 11 The first approved drug for the treatment of
- 12 CF lung disease was rhDNase, and that was studied in
- 13 the early 1990s. The treatment effect on lung function
- 14 from the Phase III studies was 119 mLs. I want you to
- 15 note that we had very little else to use in our
- 16 patients at this time.
- 17 Next came aerosolized antibiotic tobramycin.
- 18 The Phase III trials that were performed in the latter
- 19 part of the '90s saw a treatment effect of 142 mLs, yet
- 20 a more recent study of tobramycin published in 2011
- 21 shows a less robust treatment effect. This is likely
- 22 because of diminishing effects of inhaled antibiotics

- 1 over time, or because we currently use many other
- 2 medications to treat our patients with CF lung disease,
- 3 such as rhDNase, hypertonic saline, chronic macrolides,
- 4 and aerosol antibiotics, all of which are recommended
- 5 in the CF pulmonary guidelines.
- 6 These guidelines also recommend hypertonic
- 7 saline based on improvement in lung function and a
- 8 reduction in pulmonary exacerbations, with a treatment
- 9 effect of 68 mLs. So compared to these pivotal CF
- 10 studies, the treatment effect with DPM appears
- 11 consistent with these other therapies commonly used to
- 12 treat CF lung disease, supporting a clinically
- 13 meaningful treatment response.
- 14 And I again want to stress that the patients
- 15 in the DPM studies had a high rate of concomitant
- 16 medication use, which is very different from these
- 17 pivotal trials of rhDNase, inhaled tobramycin, and even
- 18 the study of hypertonic saline.
- 19 Here I show the reduction in the incidence of
- 20 exacerbations from these same trials, and I think you
- 21 can see that the DPM results are again comparable to
- 22 what has been demonstrated with other CF medications.

- 1 And again I stress that patients on DPM had a high rate
- 2 of concomitant medication use, unlike these other
- 3 pivotal studies.
- 4 Now recall that the patients were offered
- 5 participation in an open-label extension. It is
- 6 impressive that most patients that completed the
- 7 double- blind phase and shown to tolerate DPM elected
- 8 to continue for an additional six months on inhaled
- 9 DPM. As with all CF therapies, some patients simply
- 10 don't tolerate DPM, and this is established early after
- 11 we start treatment.
- So while recognizing that the patient numbers
- 13 have declined over time, and the data are uncontrolled
- 14 in the open-label phase, we see that most patients
- 15 remain on therapy. There are very few dropouts since
- 16 the tolerability has already been established, and the
- 17 patients maintain the benefit and lung function over
- 18 these additional six months.
- 19 Now let's address the question of safety, and
- 20 I want to focus on the two most relevant adverse events
- 21 with DPM, bronchospasm and hemoptysis. In these
- 22 trials, the mannitol tolerance test was used as part of

- 1 the screening process, and it appears to be a highly
- 2 effective method of screening.
- 3 Patients who fail the MTT were not allowed to
- 4 continue in the trial, and this resulted in less than
- 5 one percent of patients experiencing bronchospasm,
- 6 which supports the effectiveness of this strategy using
- 7 the MTT, as well as the use of an inhaled
- 8 bronchodilator prior to dosing. So for me the risk of
- 9 bronchospasm is not a major concern and appears
- 10 manageable.
- 11 So we move on to hemoptysis, and this is a
- 12 fairly common event for patients with CF, ranging from
- 13 scant, which is the most common, to massive, which is
- 14 far less common. Hemoptysis is typically associated
- 15 with infection and is a sign of pulmonary
- 16 exacerbations. We have general knowledge of how common
- 17 these events are in CF patients. A retrospective study
- 18 in Israel reported an overall incidence of hemoptysis
- 19 of nine percent.
- 20 In the previously mentioned pivotal clinical
- 21 trials, the reported rates of hemoptysis in the placebo
- 22 arms range from 21 to 31 percent in trials of at least

- 1 six months' duration. So the overall DPM rate does not
- 2 appear to be higher than what we typically see in our
- 3 patients.
- 4 But what about massive hemoptysis, an event
- 5 of much greater concern to the patient and clinician?
- 6 The rate of massive hemoptysis associated with DPM was
- 7 within the range that we have reported from our CF
- 8 patient registries. Hemoptysis is a common aspect of
- 9 CF lung disease, enough so that we generated CF
- 10 pulmonary guidelines dedicated to this complication.
- 11 Our CF clinicians monitor for events, and
- 12 when they see them they quantify the amount of
- 13 bleeding. The guidelines presented several
- 14 recommendations. Typically, physicians consider
- 15 hemoptysis as a manifestation of exacerbation and treat
- 16 it as such.
- 17 The guidelines recommend in the setting of
- 18 massive hemoptysis that we withhold certain therapies,
- 19 such as airway clearance therapies and aerosol
- 20 therapies, until the bleeding has resolved after which
- 21 time we would reinstitute those therapies.
- So let's tackle the issue of hemoptysis in

- 1 children and adolescents in these studies head on.
- 2 There is a signal that hemoptysis occurs more often in
- 3 younger patients with DPM, even when exacerbations are
- 4 taken into account. But when you look at the adults,
- 5 there is no difference.
- 6 The children who had hemoptysis events also
- 7 had more severe lung disease, which is a known risk
- 8 factor for hemoptysis. Importantly, these patients had
- 9 more severe lung disease than we see in our average
- 10 pediatric CF population. The hemoptysis was not
- 11 persistent, and there were no cases of massive
- 12 hemoptysis.
- No patients withdrew from the trial as a
- 14 result of the hemoptysis event. In addition, these
- 15 pediatric patients were shown to have an improvement in
- 16 lung function with a median improvement of 60 mLs. So
- 17 knowing all of this information, in a group of patients
- 18 with higher risk, how do I weigh the risk/benefit in
- 19 all children and adolescents with CF?
- 20 Pediatric patients should have the
- 21 opportunity to obtain the overall benefit in lung
- 22 function, and I believe that this outweighs an

- 1 acceptable risk.
- Other than hemoptysis, the DPM adverse events
- 3 appear to be tolerability-related. And withdrawals in
- 4 CF clinical practice due to tolerability is commonly
- 5 seen with other aerosol therapies that we use in cystic
- 6 fibrosis. And this is why I find the completer
- 7 analysis compelling, as shown earlier by Dr. Fox,
- 8 showing that patients who stayed on therapy until the
- 9 end of 26 weeks benefitted from treatment.
- 10 So now that we find that DPM may prove safe
- 11 and effective, how do we think about introducing it to
- 12 our patients? Patients with CF have a significant
- 13 burden of treatment. As stated by Dr. Ratjen, these
- 14 burdens lead to barriers to adherence. So when we
- 15 introduce a new therapy, we must be cautious about
- 16 adding to their overall treatment burden.
- 17 You have already heard and seen what patients
- 18 endure on a typical day, but let me give you a real-
- 19 life example. I have a patient who tells me that in
- 20 order for her to complete all of her therapies, then
- 21 get ready and drive to work, she must awaken at 4:00
- 22 a.m., just so she can get there in time. Once she is

- 1 there, she gets 15- minute breaks, she gets a 30-minute
- 2 lunch, so what do you think her enthusiasm is to repeat
- 3 that treatment cycle when she gets home from work?
- 4 So our patients make choices every day about
- 5 their therapies, and unfortunately that choice may be
- 6 to skip them. So what we need, and what our patients
- 7 need, are options. We need to find the treatment
- 8 options that are best suited for each patient. The dry
- 9 powder option offers a low treatment burden, such as
- 10 portability, shorter treatment time, and it also fits
- 11 in the lifestyle of our patients as they often request
- 12 a more discreet therapy.
- I would also like to acknowledge that there
- 14 are updated guidelines on chronic therapies by the CF
- 15 Foundation Pulmonary Guidelines Committee. I completed
- 16 my term on that Committee, and so I have nothing to
- 17 disclose with that respect. But just recently they
- 18 made this recommendation for the use of inhaled
- 19 mannitol. They have recommended that it be used in
- 20 patients six years and older who pass an MTT, and this
- 21 has been accepted for publication by the American
- 22 Journal of Respiratory and Critical Care Medicine.

- 1 The cornerstone of CF treatment for both
- 2 adult and pediatric patients is airway clearance. I
- 3 cannot stress the importance of this enough. So when
- 4 you look at the totality of the evidence for DPM, DPM
- 5 improves lung function and it reduces the incidence of
- 6 pulmonary exacerbations. These are clinically
- 7 meaningful improvements seen even in patients that are
- 8 already treated with the best standard of care.
- 9 The overall safety profile appears acceptable
- 10 to me. While DPM seems to increase the risk of
- 11 hemoptysis in younger patients, treating physicians
- 12 know how to monitor and how to address this event
- 13 should it occur. So I believe that DPM is a good option
- 14 for our patients, both young and old. We do not
- 15 expect it to be the option for all of our patients, but
- 16 that is what we already know for every other medication
- 17 that we use to treat CF lung disease.
- So I thank you for your attention, and I will
- 19 return the presentation to Dr. Fox.
- 20 DR. FOX: Thank you for your insights, Dr.
- 21 Flume. And thank you for your time and attention. Now
- 22 we look forward to answering your questions.

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DR. JACOBY: Questions from the Committee?
    Dr. Castile, were you -- I'm sorry. I thought you were
 2
    -- Dr. Terry. Clarifying Questions to the Presenters
 3
              DR. TERRY: I'd like to ask the question,
   perhaps I missed it, what was the dose in the mannitol
 5
    tolerance test?
 7
              DR. FOX: So the dose used in the mannitol
   tolerance test is the --
 9
              DR. TERRY: Yeah.
10
              DR. FOX: -- exactly the same dose as used in
    the study up to -- it was taken up to 400 milligrams.
11
              DR. TERRY: Did you ever consider after
12
   people passed that then taking it up to the 600 dose,
13
    which is the dose that induces bronchospasm, as a
14
    further screen?
15
16
              DR. FOX: We thought that the most
    appropriate thing was to ensure that the dose that was
17
   planned to be used in the population would be that of
18
19
    400 milligrams, as opposed to the aridol test, which
20
    was really looking at patients with suspected bronchial
   hyperactivity as a confirmatory diagnosis. So I think
21
22
    they were trying to achieve two different things, but I
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- 1 think your question is well taken.
- 2 DR. JACOBY: I would like to follow up on
- 3 that, because what Dr. Terry was asked about was
- 4 something that I was also wondering about. The
- 5 description of the mannitol tolerance test in the
- 6 materials that you presented says, "Mannitol tolerance
- 7 test was conducted using sequential mannitol
- 8 administration with a target dose of 400 milligrams and
- 9 FEV1 measurements at three time points during the
- 10 tolerance test." And then you look for a 20 percent
- 11 fall.
- 12 So was it that you were giving -- you were
- 13 giving multiple capsules, obviously, and I would assume
- 14 that not everyone reached the 400 milligram dose. Is
- 15 that correct?
- DR. FOX: That's correct.
- DR. JACOBY: So do you have information on
- 18 what the distribution was of what -- what dose in those
- 19 that failed caused the 20 percent fall?
- 20 DR. FOX: Yes. What I'd like to do is
- 21 actually ask Dr. Charlton to come to the podium, if I
- 22 could, because I think it would be helpful for him to

- 1 sort of walk through that and to also look at the
- 2 different distributions.
- 3 Thank you.
- DR. CHARLTON: I can show you here the
- 5 process for the test itself. So, yes, the 400
- 6 milligrams is given by inhalation of three capsules,
- 7 which is 120 milligrams, and then an FEV1 is measured.
- 8 And then a further 120 milligrams, FEV1 is measured
- 9 again, and then, finally, 160 milligrams and FEV1 is
- 10 again measured.
- Now, if there is a fall of 20 percent in FEV1
- 12 prior to the 400 milligram total dose, that was a
- 13 failed test.
- DR. JACOBY: Yes.
- DR. CHARLTON: Yeah. I don't have the doses.
- 16 What I can show you is that -- well, what I can tell
- 17 you is what -- the 5.7 percent failed, and that the
- 18 mean fall was 25.6 percent. I do not immediately have
- 19 the data on the distribution.
- 20 DR. JACOBY: So, I'm sorry, I just want to
- 21 follow up on this, and then I'll --
- DR. FOX: Is that something we could come

back with you after the break? Because I think we could have the --2 3 DR. JACOBY: Oh, absolutely. DR. FOX: -- distribution data for that, 5 yeah. DR. JACOBY: Right. But let me just ask 6 this. I think that the question that Dr. Terry was getting at, and the thing that I was thinking about, is it looks like the -- from the data that you presented, 10 the incidence of bronchospasm in properly screened patients is low. And the thing that one might be 11 concerned about is with general release of this 12 inhaler, people being treated without appropriate 13 screening, for one reason or another, where the 14 screening was not done properly or something like that. 15 16 And so how bad can this be? There is a 25 percent fall in FEV1 among the ones that failed, but 17 18 that is presumably not people taking 400 milligrams of mannitol. That is distributed among the doses at which 19 20 they failed. So perhaps anecdotally, do we know, what is 21 22 the worst-looking reaction in a failed mannitol

- 1 tolerance test? Do these people get better very
 2 quickly with bronchodilators? How bad --
- 3 DR. FOX: Sure. Understood.
- 4 DR. JACOBY: How bad -- what is the worst-
- 5 case scenario?
- DR. FOX: Understood. So, again, I'll ask
- 7 Dr. Charlton to talk through that, including perhaps
- 8 some information on one of the Phase II studies where
- 9 patients were not pre-treated with the bronchodilator
- 10 for -- in cystic fibrosis. That would be useful, too.
- 11 DR. CHARLTON: The bronchoconstriction caused
- 12 with mannitol we know from experience -- we have had a
- 13 lot of experience with aridol in patients with airways
- 14 hyperreactivity that the bronchoconstriction is
- 15 reversible with bronchodilator. It is fairly quickly
- 16 reversible.
- 17 The worst fall in the MTT in the trial
- 18 program was 53 percent, and that was in a patient that
- 19 recovered within 30 minutes with bronchodilator.
- 20 DR. JACOBY: Great. Thank you very much.
- 21 DR. FOX: And in terms of the -- sorry, Dr.
- 22 Charlton. Just in terms of the Phase II experience in

terms of some patients, do you have that data available? 2 3 DR. CHARLTON: I should have that data. DR. FOX: Yeah. DR. CHARLTON: Yeah. An additional piece of 5 data is that during the Phase II program we did actually screen using a higher dose. And 74 patients 7 were screened with an over 600 milligram dose, and in fact they were screened without pre-bronchodilator. 10 And the largest fall in these patients was 25 percent. 11 So even without pre-bronchodilator, and with a larger dose, in a CF population equivalent to what was studied 12 in the Phase III trials, large falls are not a common 13 14 outcome. DR. JACOBY: Just so I'm clear as to what you 15 16 did in this study, that's presumably also not just giving 635 milligrams to people. It's a graded --17 18 DR. CHARLTON: If they had a positive test before --19 20 DR. JACOBY: Yes. 21 DR. CHARLTON: -- they reached 600, yes.

DR. JACOBY: Yes.

22

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DR. CHARLTON: Yes, that was positive.
 1
              DR. JACOBY: Okay. Good. Dr. Wagener?
 2
              DR. WAGENER: Just following on the slide you
 3
    just had up there, there were about 30 percent of
   patients had a 15 percent fall. Did you look at what
 5
   percent had a 10 percent fall? Which is closer to the
    variability of the test, at least in the pediatric age
 7
   group?
 9
              DR. CHARLTON: We did look -- in the Phase
10
    III studies, we did actually look at the group of
   patients that had greater than 10 percent fall versus
11
12
    the group of patients that had less than 10 percent
    fall. I'm not sure if we can bring that data up.
13
              And what we looked at was the incidence of
14
   bronchoconstriction events during the study, and
15
16
   whether the MTT was predicting who was more likely to
   have bronchoconstriction events. And what we can see
17
    is that falls of greater than/less than 10 percent were
18
    split about 50/50 during the MTT.
19
20
              And the incidence of AEs -- sorry -- the
    incidence -- what this shows is that the incidence of
21
22
   AEs in patients that had less than 10 percent fall was
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- 1 equivalent to the incidence of AEs in patients that had
- 2 a greater than 10 percent fall. So that the level of
- 3 fall during the MTT was not associated with subsequent.
- 4 DR. JACOBY: Dr. Castile?
- 5 DR. CASTILE: Just as a point of
- 6 clarification, when you do the MTT, do you pre-treat
- 7 with albuterol? In reading, I thought the answer was
- 8 no, but I thought I just heard the implication maybe
- 9 that that wasn't the answer. Just clarify that for me.
- 10 DR. FOX: Yes, sir. So during the Phase III
- 11 clinical program patients were routinely both pre-
- 12 treated with a bronchodilator before the challenge test
- 13 and before every dose during the study. The exception
- 14 to that was in the Phase II data where patients were
- 15 not routinely pre-treated in every single study. So
- 16 the data that Dr. Charlton showed. But in our Phase
- 17 III study everyone was pre-treated.
- 18 DR. CASTILE: How long after pre-treatment
- 19 was the first dose of mannitol given?
- DR. FOX: So, Dr. Charlton, do you know the
- 21 average time for that or --
- DR. CASTILE: For testing going forward, we

- 1 are going to need those details.
- DR. CHARLTON: During the trials, the short-
- 3 acting bronchodilator was given between five and 15
- 4 minutes before the administration of the mannitol. And
- 5 the default bronchodilator was four puffs of albuterol.
- DR. CASTILE: So the 12 percent or so that
- 7 failed and didn't enter the trial were actually -- they
- 8 had greater than 20 percent declines in FEV1, despite
- 9 pre-treatment with four puffs of albuterol. Have I got
- 10 that right?
- 11 DR. CHARLTON: That's correct.
- DR. FOX: No, that's not. So just to
- 13 clarify, there was a proportion of those patients,
- 14 around six percent of the patients, who were screened
- 15 actually had drops of more than 20 percent as the
- 16 reason for withdrawing. There were other patients who
- 17 also were not classed as a failed MTT test, but did not
- 18 complete the test, presumably more from tolerability
- 19 due to cough or not willing to go further.
- 20 But they were not withdrawn because of
- 21 spirometric-driven reasons. That was the rationale for
- 22 splitting those out, to try and understand what the

- 1 proportion was actually due to a lung function drop as
- 2 opposed to just not completing the test.
- 3 DR. CASTILE: Yeah. Well, I guess I made the
- 4 spurious assumption that if you couldn't get through
- 5 the test that was -- your lung function probably was
- 6 not improving.
- 7 DR. FOX: Sorry. I should have made that
- 8 clearer.
- 9 DR. CASTILE: So I guess the other question I
- 10 had when I read the test was, why did you pick 20
- 11 percent as a drop? I mean, generally, when we look at
- 12 reactivity or treatment we think about 10 percent
- 13 change, 10 to 12 percent change in FEV1 as a
- 14 significant change.
- 15 I, just as a clinician, was a little
- 16 concerned - I would be concerned I guess about giving
- 17 a patient a drug that produced a 20 percent drop in
- 18 lung function twice a day, or between a 10 and 20
- 19 percent, because those patients, by the MTT, the way
- 20 you've done it, would qualify.
- So, you know, and my further thought on that
- 22 was, gee, I'd really like to know, of those patients

- 1 who were really in the 10 to 20 percent range, were
- 2 they the ones that dropped out, had more adverse
- 3 events, or had no improvement? I mean, is there -- the
- 4 cutoff just seems high to me.
- 5 DR. FOX: So I think there are two elements
- 6 to that question, and then I will actually pass to I
- 7 think a clinical expert to comment. Perhaps Dr. Bilton
- 8 could comment in terms of the reason for the threshold
- 9 and the rationale for that.
- 10 I think first, though, that -- please recall
- 11 the drop in FEV1 after drug administration despite
- 12 having pre-dosed with albuterol is a very temporary
- 13 drop. And that normalizes within half an hour. This
- 14 isn't a permanent drop that continues throughout the
- 15 day. Remember, the effect that we are looking at is
- 16 trough levels after 12 hours. So that's an important
- 17 distinction I think.
- The second thing is, yes, we did look at
- 19 patients who -- I mean, I think that's the right thing
- 20 to think about. Are the patients who had -- who were
- 21 more twitchy during the test, are they more likely to
- 22 have adverse events going forward? So that was

- 1 something we looked at, and Dr. Charlton showed you
- 2 that the adverse event rate was virtually identical in
- 3 those patients compared to those who had falls of less
- 4 than 10 percent.
- 5 And I think your second question, again, is
- 6 an important one. Can you predict patient's response
- 7 to therapy going forward based on reversibility going
- 8 forward? And the answer is, again, we looked at that,
- 9 and we didn't see -- we didn't see any evidence of
- 10 being able to predict who is going to respond based on
- 11 that.
- 12 Perhaps I could get some clinical perspective
- 13 from Dr. Bilton in terms of the rationale.
- 14 Thank you.
- 15 DR. BILTON: Thank you. I am Dr. Diana
- 16 Bilton. I am the Center Director at the Royal Brompton
- 17 in London. I look after 600 patients age 16 and above
- 18 in London.
- 19 So the challenge test is looking at safety.
- 20 But from the patient point of view, it is also looking
- 21 at their tolerability, and it is in fact standard to
- 22 look at an inhaled new treatment before sending a

- 1 patient off home with it, to check how they do, that
- 2 they can tolerate the drug, and to look at changes in
- 3 lung function. And the threshold of 20 percent is a
- 4 standard one in our CF practice.
- 5 And you will often find patients saying, "Oh,
- 6 I dropped by 21 percent, but I felt okay. Please can I
- 7 have the drug?" But we stick at 20 percent as a safety
- 8 limit. And some of the patients in my clinical
- 9 experience now in Europe using this drug would have
- 10 drops that are asymptomatic, and we are having to
- 11 discuss with them that 20 percent is our safety
- 12 threshold.
- So I feel comfortable with the 20 percent.
- 14 Of course, that is in the context of it being
- 15 reversible as you sit with the patient, which these
- 16 are.
- DR. CASTILE: In your clinical practice,
- 18 since you use this now, do you have concerns about
- 19 patients who have -- starting this drug in patients who
- 20 you already know have airway reactivity, either based
- 21 clinically on a clinical diagnosis of asthma or other
- 22 pulmonary function testing like albuterol

- 1 responsiveness that, you know, clearly demonstrates
- 2 they are reactive. Do you screen those patients, or do
- 3 you just go ahead and test them?
- DR. BILTON: I think that's a really good and
- 5 important question. The difficulty is -- with cystic
- 6 fibrosis is that airway hyperresponsiveness can vary in
- 7 one patient. And clearly going into these trials my
- 8 concern was to be sure that there wasn't an increasing
- 9 incidence of bronchospasm as we went along. So that
- 10 although a patient may have passed the mannitol
- 11 tolerance test, there may be later adverse events, and
- 12 we weren't seeing that in the studies. And I haven't
- 13 seen it in clinical practice.
- 14 Checking with colleagues in Australia, their
- 15 experience is similar. We think the MTT selects out
- 16 the patients who should not get the treatment in terms
- 17 of safety with bronchospasm.
- DR. FOX: So may I provide a further
- 19 clarification as well? Asthmatic or patients at least
- 20 with a diagnosis of asthma were not excluded from these
- 21 studies. Obviously, the diagnosis, as Dr. Bilton said,
- 22 is very difficult in CF patients. But patients were

- 1 not excluded, and in fact they were slightly more
- 2 numerically in the DPM arm than in the control arm,
- 3 patients with asthma history. And yet we still see the
- 4 results in terms of the ones that we do.
- 5 DR. JACOBY: Dr. Blake?
- DR. BLAKE: My question follows along the
- 7 same topic, but I was really more interested in the
- 8 period of time for those patients who didn't reach that
- 9 six-week time point, and what exactly happened to them
- 10 during that time point, because you had, you know -- in
- 11 Study 301, you had 18 in the treatment group and five
- 12 in the placebo group who discontinued, and seven versus
- 13 one in the other study.
- And I'm wondering, those people who came in
- 15 and had the tolerance test on the one specific day,
- 16 maybe they were feeling great that day and they
- 17 tolerated it well, but then over that six-week period,
- 18 you know, days weren't so good and they didn't tolerate
- 19 it so well.
- 20 And I'm trying to get at a way maybe to
- 21 better pick patients who are going to tolerate it for
- 22 the long run, so that they don't have to go through

- 1 this period, you know, where they are not doing well.
- 2 And I want to tie it into pediatric patients,
- 3 because I think that pediatric patients are going to be
- 4 more adherent with the drug and take it twice a day,
- 5 because the parent is going to give it to them,
- 6 certainly, up until the age about of 11 or 12, whereas
- 7 adults may make a decision one day or another not to
- 8 give it to themselves, because they may not be feeling
- 9 well.
- 10 And I just wonder for those children, can we
- 11 come up with a better way to predict those who are
- 12 going to tolerate it well for the long term?
- DR. FOX: I think the answer is probably I
- 14 think that the test itself seems extremely effective at
- 15 filtering out patients who are at risk of bronchospasm.
- 16 That I think we can be reasonably confident with the
- 17 data that we have.
- 18 Can we filter out patients earlier? I think
- 19 that would be a clinical question. I would ask Dr.
- 20 Ratjen to come to -- as he is the pediatrician in the
- 21 group, to give you his clinical thoughts on that. I
- 22 think it would be a difficult challenge to know what to

- 1 do without actually trying the drug to identify.
- DR. RATJEN: Yeah. I think it's an excellent
- 3 question, but I don't think we have the answer. It
- 4 would be nice to have an early marker that you could
- 5 use that would predict in terms of what the
- 6 tolerability would be subsequently. But I don't think
- 7 that the tolerance test that acutely assesses
- 8 bronchospasm is ideally suited to test for that. At
- 9 least the data from the trial is not necessarily
- 10 informative in that way.
- DR. FOX: I think we did get some learnings,
- 12 though, from Study 301 where cough was one of the major
- 13 reasons for -- the most common adverse event for
- 14 leaving in that first six-week period was cough. And
- 15 we recognized that the rate at which you inhale
- 16 certainly is more likely to trigger cough.
- Now, in the second study we did put
- 18 particular - well, we did a few things. First of
- 19 all, we made sure that expectation was set for cough at
- 20 the beginning, but we also put more emphasis on
- 21 ensuring correct inhaler technique in that second
- 22 study. And also just simple tips like not just the

- 1 rate but also having a drink of water beforehand.
- 2 And that seemed to have an impact on the
- 3 lower withdrawal rate that we saw in the second study.
- 4 We saw a lower incidence of cough in that study, and we
- 5 saw a lower early withdrawal rate. It's hard to say
- 6 exactly whether what we did had a direct impact, but,
- 7 anecdotally, it seems that that would make sense. And
- 8 as a result of that, we are going to put specific
- 9 emphasis within our health education specifically about
- 10 how to manage cough and how to lessen the chance of it.
- DR. BLAKE: So would you have recommendations
- 12 that patients hydrate themselves well before they take
- 13 the drug in the morning and in the evening?
- DR. FOX: Certainly, I know anecdotally a lot
- 15 of patients say that they find that really helps. I
- 16 don't know if Dr. Bilton would like to comment on her
- 17 clinical experience of that.
- 18 DR. BLAKE: And are you going to recommend
- 19 that they take their medications in a certain order?
- 20 DR. FOX: Yes. Yes. Yes, we are. The DPM
- 21 should be taken before physiotherapy in particular. In
- 22 terms of relation to the other drugs, those would

- 1 normally be the antibiotics, and so on, would be taken
- 2 at the end of the regimen.
- 3 DR. BILTON: Just a comment on the experience
- 4 since the trial, but also to emphasize that we did
- 5 learn from the UK and European experience before going
- 6 to 302 in America that talking with the patients about
- 7 having a drink before they have the inhaler, getting
- 8 the flow rate right. If they do it too fast, they
- 9 cough a lot more than they need to.
- 10 So we have learned and have an education
- 11 package within the clinic, so that patients tolerate
- 12 things better. And I feel that is a reason why the
- 13 withdrawal rate is different across the two studies,
- 14 and certainly in our clinical experience now is rather
- 15 different.
- DR. BLAKE: Thank you.
- DR. JACOBY: Dr. Terry?
- 18 DR. TERRY: I'd like to ask a question about
- 19 Slide C-49. That is the slide in which there are FEV1
- 20 changes from baseline to the time of withdrawal after
- 21 six weeks. On the left-hand side, there are a
- 22 significant number of individuals who had an

- 1 improvement in some -- a marked improvement in their
- 2 FEV1, but, nevertheless, they withdrew from the study.
- 3 And my question is, were the reasons that they withdrew
- 4 from the study different from those that didn't get any
- 5 apparent improvement in their
- 6 FEV1?
- 7 DR. FOX: Yeah. I think that's a very good
- 8 question. I don't think I have data on those specific
- 9 patients. That is something we could probably look at,
- 10 because certainly it doesn't look like it is a
- 11 worsening of disease. And it certainly sits with -- it
- 12 sits with the story of a number of patients leaving
- 13 because of cough. So I think that would be a really
- 14 good idea, to look at those specific patients in terms
- 15 of reasons for withdrawal.
- DR. JACOBY: Dr. Wagener?
- DR. WAGENER: There's some evidence in -- at
- 18 least in the pediatric population that chronic exposure
- 19 of the airway to irritants increases the development of
- 20 airway bronchoreactivity. Did you repeat the challenge
- 21 test at the end of the study to see whether or not
- 22 something might have changed?

Yes, we did. I'll ask Dr. Charlton 1 DR. FOX: to comment on that. We looked at two things. We looked at post exposure to the drug, but we also looked 3 to how patients were reversed to albuterol as well prior to treatment as well, so we looked at it in the 5 6 two ways. 7 Would it be useful for Dr. Charlton to expand more on that, or would you like to see specific data on that? Would that be helpful? Dr. Charlton, please? 10 DR. CHARLTON: Yeah. I think the most 11 telling data is that we measured FEV1 before and after administration of the DPM at the clinic visits 12 throughout the study. And you can see here that what 13 we have summarized, if we look at visit one to visit 14 15 three, which is 14 weeks, we can see that the 16 proportion of patients that were actually having an increased fall in FEV1 following administration of DPM 17 was less than 50 percent. And in fact the number of 18 19 patients improving from visit one to visit three was 20 more than 50 percent. 21 The other important thing to note is that 22 this slide shows you the mean falls in FEV1 following

- 1 administration of DPM, and the negative number means
- 2 that they actually increased. So the mean was actually
- 3 an improvement in FEV1 both at visit one and at visit
- 4 three.
- 5 DR. JACOBY: Dr. Durmowicz?
- 6 DR. WAGENER: I guess just following on that,
- 7 so did any patients actually develop criteria that you
- 8 would call -- that would have excluded them from the
- 9 trial originally as they went through the study? In
- 10 other words, did anybody reach a point where late in
- 11 the study they had a 20 percent or greater fall when
- 12 they received mannitol?
- DR. CHARLTON: Throughout the entire study on
- 14 DPM, 1.4 percent of subjects did recall a greater than
- 15 20 percent fall on one occasion compared to .4 percent
- 16 of subjects on control.
- DR. JACOBY: Dr. Durmowicz?
- 18 DR. DURMOWICZ: I would just like to go back
- 19 to the mannitol tolerance test and take --
- 20 intolerability and make a couple of comments that might
- 21 at least point out some issues. And one is that we
- 22 have -- you know that the bar for a positive mannitol

- 1 tolerance test, after a pre-dose bronchodilator such as
- 2 albuterol, is minus 20 percent FEV1. It is notable
- 3 that the aridol test for bronchoreactivity, the bar for
- 4 discontinuation and saying you are hyperreactive is
- 5 minus 15 percent. So it's less.
- 6 The other issue -- and Dr. Blake alluded to
- 7 it - is that I think people understand that once you
- 8 get past the mannitol tolerance test you are not out of
- 9 the woods. And you can see that by the great number of
- 10 differential dropouts in the treatment group over time
- 11 through the 26 weeks, not just at zero to six weeks but
- 12 throughout the whole program, compared to the control.
- Now, that is a tolerability issue, which we
- 14 are discussing, and in some ways is a safety issue, in
- 15 what it means chronically to have these kind of
- 16 problems, if you sputter but don't quite have a minus
- 17 20 percent over time. But the issue -- and we discuss
- 18 it in the efficacy section, is that it messes around
- 19 with the efficacy determination because of these
- 20 differential dropouts. And that is why we are doing all
- 21 of these sensitivity analyses.
- The point I want to make is regardless of the

- 1 number of sensitivity analyses we do, all of these
- 2 differential dropouts still create a population that is
- 3 different for comparison between the two study groups
- 4 ultimately. You have a population of patients taking
- 5 the drug that have screened out over 26 weeks all of
- 6 the non- tolerators. So these people have, you know,
- 7 lead pipes for airways and they are not going to get
- 8 reactive to this and they are going to tolerate it.
- 9 You are comparing that at the end of the day
- 10 now to a control group who may tolerate it -- you don't
- 11 know -- but there might be a lot of non-tolerators in
- 12 there. And that is not addressed by the sensitivity
- 13 analysis as far as I know.
- 14 So this tolerability issue is a safety issue,
- 15 but it also becomes -- it spills over to the efficacy
- 16 part.
- 17 That's all.
- DR. JACOBY: Dr. Castile?
- 19 DR. CASTILE: Let me see if I can remember
- 20 what my question was. Oh. The first one -- I had two
- 21 questions, and then I'll shut up. For the clinicians,
- 22 since most of the effect is seen at six weeks, when you

- 1 prescribe this, do you look at six weeks to decide
- 2 whether to continue it or to discontinue it? So that's
- 3 the first question.
- And just so I don't forget it, the second
- 5 question was, I heard alluded to a Phase II trial 203
- 6 that I didn't read about. And I just wondered if that
- 7 could be briefly reviewed. I think it was -- it looked
- 8 like a head-to-head comparison between rhDNase and
- 9 mannitol.
- DR. FOX: Sure. So I guess probably I'll do
- 11 that in reverse order, if I may actually, and get the
- 12 203 out of the way, and then I think probably the more
- 13 clinically relevant question is the six weeks related
- 14 to week 26. And then we can get a clinical perspective
- 15 on that as well.
- So if we could first look to the data. This
- 17 was a study run by Andy Bush, Study 203. It was a
- 18 study that was stopped prematurely because of
- 19 enrollment difficulties, so it was very underpowered in
- 20 terms of making any conclusions. In the publication,
- 21 there was -- it was hypothesized whether the data
- 22 suggested that actually the combination of the two

- 1 treatments were not additive and that caused some
- 2 interest at the time.
- 3 Obviously, since then we have done two
- 4 studies with 300 patients in each one, and we have
- 5 shown significant benefit on top of rhDNase therapy.
- $6\,$ But if I could just -- this is the data from that
- 7 study. The suggestions by Minasian et al. were based
- 8 just on the 12- week data, really large amounts of
- 9 variability with small numbers of patients. This is
- 10 looking at FEV1 on the Y- axis here, and you will see
- 11 that at week six there is actually no difference in
- 12 either of the three groups, either DNase users alone,
- 13 DPM alone, or a combination of the two.
- 14 And then after 12 weeks there were numerical
- 15 differences in the combination, but all overlapping,
- 16 small numbers of patients. That reasonably raised the
- 17 hypothesis about whether there was a less effect. I
- 18 think since then, though -- again, I will ask for
- 19 clinical comment in a moment -- I think, you know, the
- 20 two big studies used 300 each. That story has kind of
- 21 gone away.
- I think the more interesting -- the

- 1 particularly interesting issue that you raise, though,
- 2 relates to data, perhaps what patients are doing at
- 3 week six, and does that inform us about what patients
- 4 are doing down the line at week 26?
- Now, the data I showed you just by looking at
- 6 lines drawn across the time suggests that patients at
- 7 week six are kind of behaving the same at week 26. But
- 8 obviously this isn't about what is happening to the
- 9 individual patients. So the plot I have just put up
- 10 here specifically is actually looking at individual
- 11 patients from the pooled data, and it is looking at
- 12 what is happening to the changes at week six and how
- 13 they correlate with changes at week 26.
- And actually there is a really pretty good
- 15 correlation there, and we took that actually a step
- 16 further to see if there could be utility in that
- 17 approach. And, in fact, a person with any improvement
- 18 at week six had a sensitivity and specificity of around
- 19 80 percent in terms of predicting whether they would
- 20 still have an improvement above zero at that time.
- 21 So equally you could be looking potentially
- 22 at patients who are not tolerating, are not improving,

- 1 at week six. There is an opportunity there to be
- 2 thinking about, well, if a patient is not improving at
- 3 week six, they are unlikely to be improving further
- 4 down the track.
- 5 So I would like Dr. Bilton to comment on the
- 6 data and where that may have a place.
- 7 DR. BILTON: Yes. Thank you. First, on the
- 8 DNase, I think the data in the studies is convincing
- 9 that this is an additive effect. It's two different
- 10 mechanisms of action for clearing sputum, and in
- 11 particular mannitol improving mucociliary clearance.
- The six-week data is really interesting, and
- 13 it relates really to clinical practice that in CF at a
- 14 center -- if we have seen a patient and started them on
- 15 a new treatment, we would be bringing them back at a
- 16 reasonable interval for six or eight weeks. So it's
- 17 convenient to the patient to say, "How did you get on
- 18 this -- with this treatment? And what is your
- 19 response?"
- 20 And particularly with the adolescents and
- 21 young adults, they are going to tell us whether they --
- 22 this is a treatment they wish to continue, because as

- 1 you have already heard from Dr. Flume, there is a
- 2 significant burden of treatment. And the patients
- 3 quite rightly will decide their burden versus benefit
- 4 ratio.
- 5 I think what is attractive about inhaled
- 6 mannitol in the data here is that the six-week response
- 7 does predict a longer response. So as a physician, I
- 8 can have a reasonable conversation with patients and
- 9 parents about how things might go. And there is also
- 10 quite a nice correlation between that FEV1 response and
- 11 the exacerbation response which bears that out, which
- 12 is not there for some other drugs.
- Thank you.
- DR. JACOBY: Okay. Go ahead.
- DR. CASTILE: Can I ask a follow-up? You
- 16 didn't really say whether you stopped the drug. If the
- 17 treatment is not having an effect, sort of alluding to
- 18 Felix Ratjen's concern, then we don't want to add to
- 19 their burden and there are other options. So, I mean,
- 20 do you use that as a pivotal point? And should that be
- 21 something we are recommending going forward, I guess is
- 22 what I was getting at.

DR. BILTON: So I would entirely agree, if a 1 patient comes back having not responded, or got worse, we are going to stop that drug, because even if I --3 well, I just wouldn't want to continue it, but they wouldn't either. 5 DR. JACOBY: Dr. Herring? 6 7 DR. HERRING: Thank you. I had first wanted to follow up on Dr. Blake's question and ask if there 9 were any statistical models fit to the probability of 10 dropout to try to help predict the tolerability to the 11 400 milligram dose? DR. FOX: I'm not aware of any. I'll just 12 check with my -- no, the statistician is saying no. 13 14 So, no, we haven't. 15 DR. HERRING: Okay. That could be useful 16 clinically down the road and as standard practice in the analysis of missing data to compare responders and 17 18 non- responders across a variety of measured 19 characteristics. And in addition, you might be able to 20 use some of your data from the challenge test to predict which subjects might be more likely to tolerate 21 22 the treatment. So I think you have some nice data

- there that you could be -- that could be used for that 2 purpose. DR. FOX: Sorry. If I could just jump in 3 there. So I think I misunderstood the question. did look to see if we could identify responders as 5 opposed to tolerators, which is obviously a different 7 thing, because DR. HERRING: Okay. So, yeah, so my language 10 was probably confusing. DR. FOX: Well --11 DR. HERRING: But when I say I guess --12 people who did not drop out of the study or were not forced to discontinue. 14 15 DR. FOX: Okay. So in that case, we haven't 16 -- we have looked for baseline features of response, and we couldn't find any with adequate sensitivity or 17 18 specificity --DR. HERRING: Okay. 19 20 DR. FOX: -- to be useful. DR. HERRING: Yeah. So it might be useful to
 - 22 see whether that initial challenge test gives you

21

- 1 information about who drops out or not. Then, I would
- 2 just like to ask a few more questions about the FAS,
- 3 the analysis subset. So that population is
- 4 problematic, as we know, in light of the differential
- 5 dropout on treatment that seems to be due in large part
- 6 to the adverse events and exacerbations.
- 7 So as was mentioned earlier, it's leaving you
- 8 with a healthier subset, presumably, in the DPM group.
- 9 And so with this type of missing data mechanism, the
- 10 missing data are likely to be what we call non-
- 11 ignorable
- 12 --
- DR. FOX: Sure.
- DR. HERRING: -- which means due to
- 15 unmeasured declines in FEV1. And so a mechanism like
- 16 that would not be apparent in a figure like the one you
- 17 showed in C-49, because it would be something you don't
- 18 see. You know, they have an adverse event after a
- 19 treatment and dropout, and you don't see that their
- 20 lung function has declined.
- 21 And so for the FAS population to be valid,
- 22 you really need to maintain that original

- 1 randomization, which more or less requires your dropout
- 2 to be independent of treatment and response. And so
- 3 based on the data presented, you know, it doesn't seem
- 4 likely that happens. And so I really like to see that
- 5 the sponsor did consider some simple approaches that
- 6 stress the study results in a variety of ways to try to
- 7 assess the robustness. I think that's very good.
- 8 But as far as I can tell, there are two
- 9 important issues that I don't see handled
- 10 simultaneously that I would like to see. The one issue
- 11 is, as mentioned in The New England Journal paper that
- 12 the sponsor cited in the slides by Rod Little,
- 13 propagating uncertainty.
- So the simple imputation methods don't do
- 15 anything to account for the fact that we don't
- 16 propagate our uncertainty in knowing what the responses
- 17 would have been had we been able to see them. The
- 18 mixed model actually does that, but it assumes that the
- 19 data are missing at random, which is not likely. So
- 20 that's the other important issue is that the data are
- 21 likely to be missing not at random.
- 22 So I was wondering if -- there are a lot of

- 1 modeling approaches in the literature that can
- 2 accommodate both of those issues, propagation of
- 3 uncertainty and missing not at random, missing data
- 4 mechanism. And I wondered if the sponsor used any of
- 5 those, and, if so, what kind of assumptions or models,
- 6 you know, were made and what results they obtained?
- 7 DR. FOX: So first of all, I will pass over
- 8 obviously to --
- 9 DR. HERRING: Yeah.
- 10 DR. FOX: -- my statistician very shortly. I
- 11 think there are a couple of points I would like to
- 12 cover first of all. I mean, firstly, I think the
- 13 assertion that the -- Slide 49 when we showed the slide
- 14 first has no value, I would challenge that.
- I do acknowledge what you're saying, that we
- 16 can't know exactly what these patients are doing. All
- 17 I'm saying is that based on their last FEV1, with some
- 18 of these patients having huge improvements, it seems
- 19 very unlikely that all of these patients are worsening.
- 20 So I think an assumption, therefore, of using
- 21 sensitivity models such as baseline observation carried
- 22 forward, which I have shared with you, it seems very

- 1 reasonable, therefore, to think that a simple approach
- 2 like baseline observation carried forward is a very
- 3 reasonable thing to do, because this data doesn't
- 4 suggest that this population is on average worsening.
- 5 It actually suggests there is a differential
- 6 improvement in the control -- in the DPM arm compared
- 7 to control.
- 8 DR. HERRING: So can I respond to that?
- 9 DR. FOX: Sure.
- 10 DR. HERRING: So the definition of "missing
- 11 not at random" is that you can't predict the
- 12 missingness based on -- only on the data you see. So
- 13 we can't see what happened to those --
- DR. FOX: Absolutely.
- DR. HERRING: -- lines when they disappear.
- 16 And so --
- DR. FOX: Absolutely.
- 18 DR. HERRING: -- a plot like this could never
- 19 be used to rule out missing not at random.
- DR. FOX: Absolutely.
- DR. HERRING: So, you know, you could still
- 22 have a missing at random mechanism that shows declines.

DR. FOX: Absolutely. 1 DR. HERRING: So "missing at random" doesn't 2 necessarily mean they are doing -- doing better or 3 worse. 5 DR. FOX: Absolutely. DR. HERRING: Now, about best observation carried forward, in that Little paper they do not 7 recommend that method because it doesn't --9 DR. FOX: That's true. 10 DR. HERRING: -- propagate uncertainty. I mean -- not best, sorry, baseline observation carried 11 12 forward. So I agree with you that it is a conservative approach in many ways. You're assuming they are not 13 any worse than they were when they started. But the P 14 value from that method will be too small, because it 15 16 doesn't take into account variance and knowing what their actual lung function measurements were because we 17 18 don't know that. And that is discussed in that Little 19 New England Journal paper. 20 DR. FOX: Okay. So, again, you've taken me 21 above my technical expertise. I'd like to ask Dr. Day

to come to the podium. But I think just while he is

22

- 1 coming there, I think just to point out, again, about
- 2 the tipping point that we used with plausibility. So I
- 3 think that's the -- we would have used a selection of
- 4 sensitivity analysis.
- DR. DAY: Good morning. I'm Dr. Day, and I
- 6 should disclose I have been compensated for my time and
- 7 travel but nothing else.
- 8 I agree with you about propagating the
- 9 uncertainty. This is the multiple imputation approach,
- 10 which does propagate the uncertainty. I also agree
- 11 with you your concerns about bias in that. But what we
- 12 then did was use the tipping point analysis, which is
- 13 on top of the propagation -- propagating the
- 14 uncertainty.
- So I think that we have adequately allowed
- 16 for the variance, which things like "based on
- 17 observation" don't do.
- 18 DR. HERRING: So in the multiple imputation
- 19 model, was that a missing at random mechanism?
- 20 DR. DAY: That's a missing at random, not
- 21 missing completely at random --
- DR. HERRING: Right.

130 DR. DAY: -- but missing at random. 1 DR. HERRING: Right. 2 DR. DAY: But then we have added on to that, 3 or, I should illustrate subtracted from that, the 5 tipping point. DR. HERRING: A fixed amount. 6 7 DR. DAY: Pardon? DR. HERRING: The tipping point is a fixed amount that -- I mean, it's a fixed offset, correct? 10 DR. DAY: It's a fixed offset, but against a random imputation, if you --11 12 DR. HERRING: Thank you. DR. DAY: Thank you. 13 14 DR. JACOBY: Mr. Mullins? MR. MULLINS: Yes. I have a couple of 15 16 questions for the sponsor in regards to certain safety signals that -- just that I had questions about, 17 18 particularly in pediatrics. So I would like for you to amplify the higher occurrence of hemoptysis within the 19 20 pediatric group. I was concerned about that. And then, also, the occurrence of adverse 21 22 events of DPM versus control. Could you speak to that?

- 1 DR. FOX: Yeah. Sure. I think probably the
- 2 most useful thing to do would be, first of all, ask one
- 3 of my experts, Dr. Flume, who is an expert in
- 4 hemoptysis, could probably give you a much more useful
- 5 clinical picture.
- 6 DR. FLUME: Thank you. So we know a lot
- 7 about hemoptysis in cystic fibrosis patients. And it
- 8 is anecdotally a common event. It is associated with
- 9 more advanced stage lung disease, so we see it more
- 10 commonly in adult patients than we see in pediatric
- 11 patients.
- 12 And in terms of cataloguing the frequency of
- 13 those events, if I could have the slide from the core?
- 14 There are very few publications looking at this. Our
- 15 original publication using registry data was
- 16 specifically looking at massive hemoptysis, which is a
- 17 far more rare occurrence than is scant to mild
- 18 hemoptysis.
- 19 So in this particular slide, that first
- 20 paper, the Efrati paper, is a retrospective review of
- 21 data from an Israeli center looking at 440 patients,
- 22 identifying an incidence of nine percent of those

- 1 patients having hemoptysis. And in that population, 25
- 2 percent of them were under the age of 13. So that
- 3 gives us some indication of the frequency of these
- 4 events.
- Now, that doesn't discount the finding of a
- 6 signal in this particular study. That obviously is
- 7 something that we acknowledge, that there is an event
- 8 there, although the events tend to be mild.
- 9 Now, because we recognize the frequency of
- 10 this event, as you can see in the placebo arms of those
- 11 pivotal trials a reported rate of 20 to 30 percent, the
- 12 CF Pulmonary Guidelines Committee generated a set of
- 13 recommendations to deal with that specific
- 14 complication.
- 15 Now, when we put together our guidelines, we
- 16 try to use evidence-based approaches to do that, but
- 17 there are no clinical trials looking at how to manage
- 18 hemoptysis that just don't exist. So what we used was
- 19 a consensus approach. But to avoid any kind of biases
- 20 being put into there, we used a Delphi approach with 20
- 21 centers, including both pediatric and adult centers,
- 22 and from that we were able to generate appropriate

- 1 recommendations for what to do in the setting of
- 2 hemoptysis, whether it be scant or massive hemoptysis.
- 3 MR. MULLINS: Could you expound on the higher
- 4 occurrence of hemoptysis within DPM patients versus
- 5 control?
- 6 DR. FLUME: Could I have the slide looking at
- 7 that? So this is separating the data out based on age.
- 8 This, too, was taken from the core set of slides that
- 9 we discussed earlier. And so what you see here
- 10 separating the pediatric population, so six- to 17-
- 11 year-olds, away from the adult population, what you see
- 12 is the total event -- number of events is 10.4 percent
- 13 in the pediatric patients who are getting the full dose
- 14 of DPM compared to 7.6 percent.
- And recall that that includes the combination
- 16 of when the investigators reported it specifically as
- 17 an adverse event, but also those patients who had an
- 18 exacerbation in which they also recorded hemoptysis as
- 19 a feature. So what you see is a 10 versus eight
- 20 percent difference, so that gives a signal that perhaps
- 21 there might be some -- something to manage there.
- But, again, I think this is a complication

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which is well known by our pediatric clinicians.
             MR. MULLINS: You seem rather high versus
 2
   control. You seem rather high versus control; that's
 3
    why
 5
    T --
              DR. FLUME: I don't disagree that it's --
 6
 7
             MR. MULLINS: Yeah.
              DR. FLUME: -- greater. But I also would
    argue that 10 percent to me for a mild complication is
10
    an acceptable risk when you compare that to the overall
11
   benefit in terms of improving lung function and
    reducing pulmonary exacerbations.
12
13
             MR. MULLINS: My second question was just
    efficacy within that subgroup of pediatrics. Could you
14
    speak to that also, because I have questions about
15
16
    efficacy. Do you have the charge on that, on efficacy
   within that subgroup --
17
18
             DR. FLUME: I think --
19
             MR. MULLINS: -- subpopulation?
              DR. FLUME: -- what I'd like to do is invite
20
    Dr. Fox to show the data that we have on efficacy
21
22
    specific to that population.
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- 1 MR. MULLINS: Thank you. DR. FOX: Okay. So, first of all, if we go 2 back to my core slide where I showed -- so this is a 3 forest plot. So what this is looking at is the -- the blobs are basically looking at the estimate of effect 5 size within each different subset of patients. So when the -- they're on the right-hand side of the dotted 7 line they are in favor of DPM, and when they're on the left they are in favor of control. 10 And the first cluster of data relates to 11 children, adolescents, and adults. And we can see that in each case the blobs are on the right-hand side and 12 in favor. But visually you can see that the adolescent 13 group does appear to have a lesser effect. 14
- 15 Statistically, these aren't different, but you are
- 16 still left with the impression that -- is there
- 17 something going on in the adolescent population?
- 18 So what I'd like to share with you, and I
- 19 think it's perhaps useful, is the data where we break
- 20 out this data into the DPM arms versus control within
- 21 the individual study. So this is kind of an extension
- 22 of that data, and I'll just walk you through this if I

- 1 can.
- 2 So we've got DPM in blue, control in green,
- 3 on the Y-axis there we've got change in FEV1. We would
- 4 see a similar picture if we actually looked at this in
- 5 terms of FEV1 percent predicted as well. We've got
- 6 children on the left-hand side, then adolescents in
- 7 Studies 301/302 separately, and then we've got adults
- 8 on the right-hand side.
- 9 One of the features here we see is that in
- 10 terms of the DPM group, in terms of how they are doing,
- 11 actually the children and adolescents seem to be doing
- 12 better than adults, but so do the control group as
- 13 well. So there appears to be a large control effect, a
- 14 larger variability in that population. Nevertheless,
- 15 we are seeing in three of four of these arms benefit in
- 16 terms of the DPM arm.
- Now, you have been asked to decide whether
- 18 there is adequate effect in these kids compared to the
- 19 safety signal, particularly in terms of hemoptysis.
- 20 We really sort of wanted to then look hard at
- 21 what was happening in this control group to see if we
- 22 could see what was happening there, and particularly in

- 1 terms of Study 302 adolescents, where it looks as if
- 2 the control group actually did numerically slightly
- 3 better. So the first thing we looked at was to see if
- 4 there were any randomization issues, whether there were
- 5 compliance issues, whether there were changing
- 6 concomitant medication issues over time. We couldn't
- 7 find anything there to explain that, so this may be
- 8 purely chance.
- On the other hand, we do know that the
- 10 control dose is 50 milligrams of mannitol, so we can't
- 11 completely exclude that having an effect. But the
- 12 Phase II data suggests, again, that's not a good
- 13 reason. So we are really left still with, is this a
- 14 chance finding, so this just shows the -- so here we
- 15 should look at the dosing split by the age groups.
- 16 Again, we see a similar pattern.
- 17 There is nothing there to suggest that the 50
- 18 milligram dose that used in the Phase III studies, the
- 19 40 milligram dose used here in teenagers and kids, it
- 20 doesn't suggest that that's a cause either. So we're
- 21 left with this chance, always is something happening.
- So the next thing we did was we looked to

- 1 see, well, was there a region effect? So we, first of
- 2 all, looked at the data by region. I think I will just
- 3 wait to share that with you.
- 4 And this shows the data for the overall data
- 5 by region, Europe; North America, which is the U.S.;
- 6 and some centers in Canada; Australasia, which is
- 7 Australia and New Zealand; and South America, which was
- 8 entirely made up of eight centers in Argentina.
- 9 And when we look at this pooled data, we see
- 10 remarkably consistent effect across all of the regions
- 11 apart from the eight Argentinian centers. Now,
- 12 obviously, this is very post-hoc. We are not making
- 13 any claims about efficacy here. The data of the two
- 14 pivotal studies is the data. You can't post-hoc select
- 15 those out and make claims.
- But this did seem to be a very interesting
- 17 signal, particularly as Argentina was contributing the
- 18 highest proportion of teenagers in Study 302. They
- 19 were the big driver of the teenagers in Study 302.
- 20 So we said, okay, right, well, let's have a
- 21 look at -- let's look at the kids and adolescents in
- 22 Argentina. So if we compare on the left-hand side the

- 1 six- to 17-year-olds in Study 302 all together, that's
- 2 the 153 patients, and we've got a difference there of
- 3 29 mLs in Study 302.
- 4 Then, if we look at Argentina only, we see
- 5 that there was a favorable outcome in the control group
- 6 where the control group did 65 mLs better, such that if
- 7 post- hoc we had excluded the eight centers in
- 8 Argentina from this program, we would have seen a delta
- 9 of 80 mLs in children and adolescents in Study 302.
- 10 This is post-hoc, but this is what we found, so
- 11 hopefully that's useful.
- DR. JACOBY: Dr. Tracy?
- DR. TRACY: Thank you. My question is
- 14 obviously outside the study, but for the clinicians, do
- 15 you ever see your patients, before you use this
- 16 medication, forget to pre-medicate with albuterol? And
- 17 then -- that's the first question. And if they did
- 18 forget to pre-medicate with albuterol, what do you
- 19 think would happen?
- 20 DR. FOX: So I think I will ask Dr. Bilton
- 21 again if she has had experience in outside clinical --
- 22 outside the studies, first of all, and then perhaps as

- 1 Dr. Ratjen to comment as a pediatrician. That is also
- 2 an important consideration.
- 3 DR. BILTON: I think it's true that whatever
- 4 I advise patients to do on a busy day when they're
- 5 trying to get up and get to work, they are likely to
- 6 miss something out. I haven't had a patient come and
- 7 say, "Oh, I forgot my albuterol and then I felt
- 8 terrible after my aridol." That hasn't happened, but I
- 9 would expect that at some point, and possibly in the
- 10 trial as well, although patients say they are doing
- 11 things on busy days.
- But certainly in my clinical practice we
- 13 haven't had a severe bronchospasm, and the Australian
- 14 colleagues who have been using it for longer than I
- 15 have have not had people collapsing with severe
- 16 bronchospasm because of that issue. That's all I can
- 17 tell you.
- DR. JACOBY: Dr. Greenberger?
- 19 DR. GREENBERGER: This focuses on the
- 20 responses in the children and adolescents. And my
- 21 question is the data -- the FEV1s at the zero screening
- 22 versus V1, week one, which are used as baseline, are

- 1 you able to share with us those data, the one minus VO
- 2 in children, adolescents, as well as adults? And
- 3 preferably for 301 and 302.
- DR. FOX: I can show you some data based on
- 5 the overall population. I don't have those split out.
- 6 That was based on a sensitivity analysis that we
- 7 discussed with FDA at our pre-NDA meeting. We were
- 8 advised by FDA I think very clearly that this was a
- 9 post-hoc analysis that wouldn't have been viewed
- 10 favorably.
- And, therefore, we didn't include it in our
- 12 sensitivity analysis simply because it actually makes
- 13 our data look more favorable, so as a non-conservative
- 14 sensitivity analysis that we exclude it. But I can
- 15 certainly share that with you, what we saw.
- This might be the most useful way of looking
- 17 at this. I think I need to walk you through it
- 18 carefully, though.
- 19 So what this is doing is showing in the solid
- 20 -- if we start with the solid blue line at the very
- 21 top, what we're seeing is the mannitol change from
- 22 screening in Study 302. And then if we look at the

- 1 solid red line directly -- sorry, underneath, we see
- 2 that the mannitol group, if we use change from
- 3 baseline, is virtually identical. It doesn't make any
- 4 difference whether you used a screening value or a
- 5 baseline value to look at your effect. It made no
- 6 difference.
- 7 If, on the other hand, you took the control
- 8 group shown in the blue dotted line, that plots out the
- 9 change from baseline visit one. So that's the data
- 10 that we are using and plan to use prospectively that we
- 11 are basing our 54 mL effect testament on.
- 12 If you look at the red dotted line, you will
- 13 see the -- what the control would have looked like if
- 14 we had, instead, used the control -- we had used the
- 15 screening value. And if we had used the screening
- 16 value instead, I can show you what the 302 data would
- 17 look like, if that's useful to you. But, obviously, it
- 18 would look less conservative and it would look -- it
- 19 would look very similar to 301.
- 20 So clearly this is a very non-conservative
- 21 sensitivity analysis. We appreciated the FDA's
- 22 feedback on that, and we chose not to include it on our

- 1 sensitivity analysis. But this is what it would look
- 2 like if we had used screening values instead of
- 3 baseline.
- 4 DR. JACOBY: Dr. Parad?
- DR. GREENBERGER: Pardon me. My question is,
- 6 do you have this broken down for the three populations?
- 7 DR. FOX: No, sir. I don't.
- Because I'm wondering if
- 9 the changes occur in children and adolescents versus
- 10 adults.
- DR. FOX: We did I think look at some of that
- 12 a couple of years ago, but obviously it was something
- 13 we have dropped since. I will try and see if I can get
- 14 that data during the break, and I will certainly make
- 15 an effort to. It does look like, though, the main --
- 16 the bigger driver is coming from the South American
- 17 centers, but, again, this could be a feature.
- DR. JACOBY: Dr. Parad?
- 19 DR. PARAD: Okay. I've saved up three
- 20 questions. I'll get them off my chest at once. The
- 21 first one, following up on Dr. Castile's question a
- 22 bit, in terms of indications for initiating this

- 1 medication, will there be -- it looked like there was
- 2 some combination effect from using the DNase. Are you
- 3 proposing that clinicians add this to existing
- 4 hydrators or mucolytics? Or if a patient is on no
- 5 medications yet, what would the order of initiating
- 6 such drugs be? And what would be the indication for
- 7 actually starting this? What kind of symptomatology?
- 8 So that is question one.
- 9 Question two, going to the issue of children
- 10 again, it's a very broad age range in not a very large
- 11 number of patients. And children are different from
- 12 adults in lots of ways. And CF young children are
- 13 different from older CF patients.
- So 80 mLs to me means a different thing in a
- 15 six-year-old than it does in a 40-year-old, because
- 16 their weight is probably four times different. But you
- 17 are expressing your primary outcome as an absolute
- 18 volume. So do you have the data also presented as
- 19 percent -- a delta in percent predicted FEV1, which
- 20 would correct for age. I mean, perhaps your data
- 21 actually suggests maybe we would see a bigger effect in
- 22 children who may have more reversible disease, or there

- 1 may be something different about them. Do you have the
- 2 data expressed in that way where we could look at
- 3 smaller children, at least below the adolescents?
- And then, the last question is with regard to
- 5 duration of effect after stopping the drug in the
- 6 trial. Do you have data either from those who didn't go
- 7 into the open label after 26 weeks, or retesting after
- 8 the end of the 52-week period to see how rapidly --
- 9 what effect persisted or how rapid a decline there was
- 10 after stopping the drug?
- DR. FOX: Gosh. That's quite a shopping
- 12 list. I might start backwards, if I may, and I might
- 13 have to come back with you for some clarifications on
- 14 those as well. Excuse me.
- 15 So in terms of the open-label data, we don't
- 16 have data of what happens when patients discontinue.
- 17 So time to -- do they go back to baseline or not? What
- 18 we do have is data on what happens to patients when
- 19 they go -- when they went into the open-label phase.
- 20 So this is data I'm sharing here from the two studies,
- 21 301 on the top, and this is based only on these
- 22 patients. You'll notice I have included the ends here.

- 1 This is based on the patients that went into the open-
- 2 label phase, and then we have tracked back to show you
- 3 what they were doing prior -- during the double-blind
- 4 as well.
- 5 So you will see that the pattern is quite
- 6 similar in both of these. Dr. Flume has already shown
- 7 you the blue line data, what happens to the active arm.
- 8 But also this slide shows you what happens to the
- 9 control patients shown in green during the double-blind
- 10 phase, and what happens when they switch to receive 400
- 11 milligrams.
- So it's not the same, but it at least
- 13 provides some sort of very coarse open-label,
- 14 uncontrolled, with all of those caveats, sort of an
- 15 indication of what happens. But obviously that data
- 16 needs to be looked at with real caution I think.
- So then going back to in terms of do we have
- 18 data by percent predicted, yes, we do, to account for
- 19 growth. That primary endpoint was based on using
- 20 milliliters. That was something, having discussed with
- 21 TDN, the most pure method to use because it is not
- 22 introducing other variables. But of course it is not

- 1 usefully accounting for age over a six-month study. So
- 2 this data is, instead, showing the pooled data both in
- 3 terms of mLs split by six to 11, 12 to 17, and 18 and
- 4 above, but also showing it in terms of percent
- 5 predicted change.
- 6 And you are absolutely right that when we
- 7 particularly look at the six- to 11-year-olds, when we
- 8 do take growth into account, then that data starts
- 9 looking more similar to adults as they've got smaller
- 10 lungs, and, therefore, they have relatively larger --
- 11 smaller changes in absolute terms. But in relative
- 12 terms, the changes are closer to the adult population.
- 13 Does that help address that particular
- 14 question, sir?
- DR. PARAD: I am actually surprised there
- 16 isn't an even larger effect in a small group, but it
- 17 was perhaps not a very large number of children. Is
- 18 that --
- 19 DR. FOX: Well, yes. So about half the
- 20 patients were adults, reflecting the current
- 21 distribution of patients these days. So it did mean
- 22 that there was a smaller fraction of younger children.

- 1 The other issue, of course, with this study, by having
- 2 a cap of -- patients had to have FEV1s of less than 90
- 3 percent predicted at the start of the study. You had
- 4 automatically excluded the kids who, luckily, have
- 5 better -- less severe disease.
- DR. PARAD: And then --
- 7 DR. FOX: And then there was a third
- 8 question, as I rustle through my paper. I think this
- 9 would be one that -- so this was in terms of the data
- 10 that we -- I mean, wouldn't it be useful to have a
- 11 pediatric opinion on that data as well, or you're happy
- 12 with that? So perhaps Dr. Ratjen could comment on that
- 13 as I think it is an important piece of it.
- DR. RATJEN: Yeah. I think that there is
- 15 another way we could actually look at the data and look
- 16 at it per study, so you can look at the different age
- 17 groups and the different studies, similar to what has
- 18 been shown for the mLs overall. And that would -- this
- 19 is the slide for --
- 20 DR. FOX: And a change -- and there should be
- 21 on percent predictive --
- 22 DR. RATJEN: There should also be one in

- 1 percent, but it also already tells you that if you have
- 2 100 -- if you have a relatively high percent -- so if
- 3 you -- this is showing this here in terms of the
- 4 percent predicted in the different studies in the
- 5 different age groups.
- 6 And certainly for 302 there seemed to be a
- 7 higher effect in the 400 milligram group, and the --
- 8 and in 301, the effect was similar to what was seen in
- 9 adults. So I think the issues about the control group
- 10 have already been addressed, but if you look at the
- 11 change versus baseline that would support this notion,
- 12 that if you -- and this discussion of what is the
- 13 better way to look at it is -- has been ongoing in the
- 14 CF field, and many of us pediatricians feel stronger
- 15 about the percent predicted than the mLs.
- DR. JACOBY: Thank you. And last question
- 17 from Dr. Blake.
- 18 DR. FOX: Thank you. And I think the last
- 19 one, if I could go back to -- sorry, sorry.
- DR. JACOBY: I'm sorry. Perhaps we can
- 21 follow up on --
- DR. FOX: Okay. Sure.

- 1 DR. JACOBY: Dr. Blake?
- DR. BLAKE: This is more of a comment than a
- 3 question. And, again, it just goes back to the signal
- 4 for hemoptysis in the children. And, again, I go back
- 5 to the parents of young children under the age of 11
- 6 are very motivated to give their children their CF
- 7 medications. And so I think that monitoring for
- 8 hemoptysis is going to be very important.
- 9 With that said, I think your proposed plan to
- 10 send questionnaires to the health care provider falls a
- 11 little bit short. And I think that in this electronic
- 12 age we really have a duty to gather all of the
- 13 information we can, and perhaps developing an app or
- 14 something like that that the parent themselves would
- 15 fill out on their Smartphone or tablet, so that you can
- 16 collect the data directly from the parent at a time
- 17 that is probably closer to the event occurring rather
- 18 than having them try and recollect and report that to
- 19 the PCP. And I think that the data would be more robust
- 20 to follow this event over the long term.
- 21 DR. FOX: Okay. Thank you for that comment.
- 22 So it's something we could discuss with the FDA, though

- 1 I think one of the great things about the CFF database
- 2 now is actually collecting data on every visit, whereas
- 3 in the past it has been sort of on an annual sort of
- 4 count basis, now the data is being collected per visit.
- 5 So I think the CFF database is a very rich source for
- 6 that.
- 7 DR. JACOBY: Okay. Thank you, everybody.
- 8 Thank you for your presentations and the questions from
- 9 the Committee. We are going to take a 10-minute break.
- 10 We will be back at 10:48.
- 11 (A break was taken.)
- DR. JACOBY: We are going to have the
- 13 presentations by the FDA now, and there will be an
- 14 opportunity for questions and clarifications after
- 15 that.
- Before we get into that, just in the interest
- 17 of moving things along, I am going to introduce what I
- 18 would call an anti-filibuster rule. I think that
- 19 everyone's questions were very well thought out and all
- 20 of the discussion was very important.
- I would encourage the Committee members to
- 22 think of the one most important question that you want

- 1 to ask and ask that question and let's -- just in the
- 2 interest of being able to get through the presentations
- 3 and have one everyone represented. And I will
- 4 apologize in advance if I have to cut anyone off. My
- 5 decisions on cutting people off will be arbitrary,
- 6 capricious, and final. So -- (Laughter.) FDA
- 7 Presentations
- 8 DR. WITZMANN: Good morning. My name is
- 9 Kimberly Witzmann, and I'm a medical officer in the FDA
- 10 in the Division of Pulmonary, Allergy, and Rheumatology
- 11 Products. I am a pediatric pulmonologist by training,
- 12 and before coming to FDA I spent a decade working with
- 13 CF patients and their families at an accredited CF
- 14 center.
- I would like to thank Dr. Jacoby and the
- 16 members of the Pulmonary Advisory Committee for being
- 17 here to share your expertise, and to thank the CF
- 18 community for their involvement and participation in
- 19 these clinical trials.
- 20 Over the next 75 minutes, members of the FDA
- 21 will review data from the new drug application for
- 22 mannitol inhalation powder, which we will refer to as

- 1 dry powder mannitol or DPM throughout the course of our
- 2 presentation.
- 3 I will begin by providing a brief overview of
- 4 the DPM clinical program. This will be followed by a
- 5 statistical review of efficacy by Ms. Feng Zhou and Dr.
- 6 Thomas Permutt. I will then return to the podium to
- 7 provide a clinical review of the efficacy and safety
- 8 data which will form the framework for the risk/benefit
- 9 profile of the proposed product.
- 10 I will now begin the overview of the clinical
- 11 program. Overview of the Clinical Program
- DR. WITZMANN: We all agree that cystic
- 13 fibrosis is a serious disease marked by significant
- 14 morbidity and early mortality. As you have heard
- 15 described in the sponsor and FDA presentations, there
- 16 is no cure for CF, and with the exception of a recently
- 17 approved therapy to treat a subgroup of patients, all
- 18 drugs available for CF treat the symptoms and sequelae
- 19 of disease.
- This table lists some of the more commonly
- 21 used respiratory treatments for CF, both for FDA
- 22 approved indications and those with common off-label

- 1 usage.
- 2 Bronchial clearance of secretions is critical
- 3 for most CF patients. This can consist of a complex
- 4 regimen of chest physiotherapy, positive expiratory
- 5 pressure generation, inhaled bronchodilators, and
- 6 inhaled agents used as mucolytics, such as DNase or
- 7 hypertonic saline or both. The drug we will discuss
- 8 today is another such inhaled agent.
- 9 The subject of today's discussion is dry
- 10 powder mannitol or DPM. It has been referred to as
- 11 mannitol inhalation powder in the literature and is
- 12 known in the CF community by its proposed trade name,
- 13 bronchitol.
- 14 A related product is marketed by the same
- 15 sponsor under the trade name aridol test kit, which is
- 16 used in the assessment of bronchial
- 17 hyperresponsiveness. Like methacholine, aridol is
- 18 labeled with a box warning for its risk of causing
- 19 severe bronchoconstriction.
- 20 As you have heard, the proposed indication
- 21 for DPM is for the management of cystic fibrosis in
- 22 patients age six years and older to improve pulmonary

- 1 function. And the proposed dose is 400 milligrams twice
- 2 daily, which consists of inhaling the contents of 10
- 3 capsules twice a day administered with a dry powder
- 4 inhaler device.
- 5 Here is a brief outline of the regulatory
- 6 history for DPM for the CF indication. The
- 7 investigational new drug application was opened on
- 8 November 22, 2004. It was granted orphan drug status
- 9 in
- 10 2005 and fast-track development status in
- 11 2006. During the end of Phase II meeting on February
- 12 15, 2006, key discussion topics with the sponsor
- 13 included the following: that Phase III study duration
- 14 would differ depending on primary outcome measure
- 15 chosen. For example, a six-month study duration would
- 16 be reasonable for FEV1 outcome, but that one-year
- 17 duration would be needed for an exacerbation endpoint;
- 18 that one-year safety data was necessary for
- 19 registration because of proposed chronic use for the
- 20 product; and that a variety of proposed endpoints may
- 21 or may not be suitable.
- 22 Specifically, the choice of an FEV1 variable

- 1 would be reasonable, but because bronchitol is not
- 2 expected to act as a bronchodilator, small changes in
- 3 FEV1 over short periods of time would not, by
- 4 themselves, be sufficient to support approval, and
- 5 additional co- primary or secondary outcomes would be
- 6 required.
- 7 A pre-NDA meeting was held on December 10,
- 8 2010, during which time the sponsor presented their
- 9 proposal for post-hoc changes to the statistical
- 10 analyses. We acknowledged the sponsor's use of post-hoc
- 11 analyses, but noted that it was premature for us to
- 12 comment on the adequacy of such as this would be part
- 13 of the NDA review.
- 14 We were clear to state that such analyses are
- 15 generally considered hypothesis-generating or
- 16 exploratory, and typically require confirmatory
- 17 studies. Ms. Zhou will discuss these statistical issues
- 18 later in her presentation.
- 19 The sponsor's development program has been
- 20 described in detail, so my overview will be brief. As
- 21 you recall, the program consisted of seven studies.
- 22 They included two Phase III trials already described by

- 1 the sponsor, and the other five studies were from the
- 2 early development program. All but one of these
- 3 studies were open label.
- 4 The DPM development program had a single dose
- 5 ranging study. Study 202 was conducted at 12 sites in
- 6 Canada and Argentina. Eighty-five CF patients age
- 7 seven years and older with FEV1 of 40 to 90 percent
- 8 predicted were initially evaluated. Because inhaled
- 9 mannitol has the known risk of causing severe
- 10 bronchoconstriction, the first challenge dose, called
- 11 the mannitol tolerance test, or MTT, was given to each
- 12 patient in a controlled setting at visit one.
- 13 After exclusion for positive test or other
- 14 reasons, 48 patients remained in the evaluable
- 15 population. In the first treatment period, all patients
- 16 received 400 milligrams twice daily dose of DPM for a
- 17 two-week course, followed by a one-week washout period.
- 18 They then began randomized enrollment into each arm of
- 19 40, 120, or 240 milligrams DPM twice daily for two
- 20 weeks, with one-week washouts between each.
- 21 Forty-four patients completed the study,
- 22 having received two weeks' treatment at each dose of

- 1 DPM, and 38 patients met the per-protocol definition
- 2 with no missing data.
- 3 Although the design of Study 202 was
- 4 problematic, since all patients began their treatment
- 5 sequence with the 400 milligram twice a day arm,
- 6 followed by randomized treatment periods with the three
- 7 lower doses, a dose-response was observed.
- 8 This graph shows the FDA's analysis of
- 9 percent change from baseline in FEV1 at the end of each
- 10 treatment period for Study 202. It demonstrates that
- 11 the 400 milligram dose of DPM provided the greatest
- 12 change in FEV1 with no marked change seen at the 40
- 13 milligram dose of DPM. In fact, treatment with the 40
- 14 milligram dose demonstrated a negative change of 1.57
- 15 percent. Four hundred milligrams was the highest dose
- 16 of DPM evaluated.
- Based on the lack of response at the 40
- 18 milligram dose in Study 202, and the need to account
- 19 for the sweet taste of mannitol for blinding purposes,
- 20 a 50 milligram dose was selected as a control for the
- 21 Phase III studies.
- The focus of the FDA efficacy presentation

- 1 will be the two Phase III trials in CF which utilize
- 2 the proposed dosing regimen under review. Studies 301
- 3 and 302 were conducted sequentially. They were both
- 4 randomized, double-blinded, controlled, parallel group
- 5 studies of 26 weeks' duration comparing the 400
- 6 milligram dose of DPM to a 50 milligram control dose.
- 7 For the remainder of the FDA presentation,
- 8 the 400 milligram active dose will be referred to as
- 9 DPM, and the 50 milligram dose will be called
- 10 "control."
- 11 Study 301 included 295 patients from 40 sites
- 12 in Australia, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, and
- 13 Ireland, of whom 177 received DPM and 118 received
- 14 control. Study 302 included 305 patients from 53 sites
- 15 in the U.S., Canada, Argentina, and Europe, of whom 184
- 16 received DPM and 121 received control.
- 17 For both studies, the primary efficacy
- 18 endpoint was change in absolute FEV1 across 26 weeks.
- 19 The design of both studies was very similar.
- 20 Due to the known bronchoconstrictive properties of
- 21 mannitol, a mannitol tolerance test or MTT was given to
- 22 each patient in a controlled setting at the screening

- 1 visit. Patients not failing the MTT would progress to
- 2 visit one, at which time they were randomized to
- 3 receive DPM or control in a three-to-two fashion.
- 4 Patients were evaluated at weeks six, 14, and 26.
- 5 Study 302 included two 26-week open-label
- 6 extensions, and Study 302 had one.
- 7 Pertinent enrollment criteria for both
- 8 studies were comparable. Inclusion criteria were
- 9 similar, with the exception of a difference in the
- 10 lower border of allowable percent predicted FEV1 at
- 11 baseline, 30 percent for Study 301, and 40 percent for
- 12 Study 302.
- 13 Exclusion criteria for both studies include
- 14 those patients with a history of significant hemoptysis
- 15 and use of hypertonic saline. Hemoptysis will be
- 16 discussed further in our safety presentation.
- 17 A total of 731 patients were enrolled for
- 18 these two studies for the combined population; 719
- 19 patients were evaluated for bronchospasm at the
- 20 screening visit using the MTT. Forty-one patients were
- 21 test positive, and an additional 27 patients were not
- 22 able to complete the MTT testing procedure, with 68

- 1 total, or 10 percent, who could not tolerate a single
- 2 administration of DPM. This is similar to the dose
- 3 ranging Study 202, which also had a large number of
- 4 patients who did not pass the MTT.
- 5 An additional 52 patients did not receive
- 6 blinded study drug at visit one. Thus, out of the 731
- 7 patients enrolled, the ITT population included 600
- 8 patients or 82 percent of those evaluated. You will
- 9 hear about additional dropouts from the ITT population
- 10 in both the efficacy and safety discussions later.
- 11 The baseline characteristics for patients
- 12 across the two studies were similar and not unexpected
- 13 given the disease being studied. For example, the
- 14 average patient's age was early twenties, and over 95
- 15 percent of patients were Caucasian. Patients were
- 16 receiving standard of care therapies. The study was
- 17 stratified to account for the use of rhDNase, but, as
- 18 mentioned previously, the use of inhaled hypertonic
- 19 saline was prohibited.
- 20 Overall, the studies note a similar mean FEV1
- 21 and mean FEV1 percent predicted, supporting the
- 22 similarity of patient populations at baseline within

- 1 these two studies. Patients in Study 302 had a higher
- 2 rate of pancreatic insufficiency, and Study 301 showed
- 3 a slightly higher rate of patients chronically infected
- 4 with mucoid strains Pseudomonas aeruginosa at baseline.
- 5 This table lists the primary and secondary
- 6 endpoints for both studies. Neither study protocol had
- 7 pre-specified key secondary endpoints, nor a pre-
- 8 specified ranking of secondary endpoints. The
- 9 statistical analysis plan for Study 302 did specify
- 10 five key secondary endpoints. However, two of these
- 11 were not identified as endpoints in the protocol.
- Ms. Zhou will describe these endpoints in
- 13 further detail in her presentation of the efficacy
- 14 data.
- I will now turn my presentation over to Ms.
- 16 Zhou, who will discuss the efficacy analyses for this
- 17 program, followed by Dr. Permutt's additional
- 18 interpretation of the key statistical issues for this
- 19 application. Statistical Review of Efficacy
- 20 MS. ZHOU: Thank you, Dr. Witzmann. My name
- 21 is Feng Zhou. I am the FDA statistician responsible
- 22 for the primary statistical review for the application

- 1 for DPM for management for cystic fibrosis that we are
- 2 here to discuss today.
- 3 This talk will focus on the Phase III study
- 4 of DPM. I will begin with a brief description of the
- 5 design of the studies, focusing on the area of concern
- 6 to the division. Next, I will describe the
- 7 differential patterns of early treatment
- 8 discontinuation that were observed in each study.
- 9 Subsequently, I will describe the issues associated
- 10 with the implementation of the pre- specified
- 11 statistical model for the primary efficacy analysis in
- 12 the presence of the early study discontinuation.
- I will propose and then present sensitivity
- 14 analysis and an additional method referred to as
- 15 cumulative responder analysis for summarizing the
- 16 primary efficacy data in the presence of missing data.
- 17 I will continue the presentation with the result of a
- 18 certain secondary efficacy endpoints, and then finish
- 19 with a comment regarding the efficacy of DPM in the
- 20 pediatric subgroup.
- You heard the applicant's description of the
- 22 studies, so I will be brief. Studies 301 and 302 were

- 1 similar in design. They were both double-blind,
- 2 parallel group, randomized studies. Randomization was
- 3 stratified by rhDNase use in the region for the Study
- 4 301 and the country for Study 302.
- 5 Subjects were to receive either DPM or
- 6 control for the entire 26 weeks' double-blind treatment
- 7 period. Studies 301 and 302 were not conducted
- 8 concurrently, so that 302 was designed with experience
- 9 obtained during the Study 301 known.
- The applicant had indicated that subjects in
- 11 the Study 302 were given more realistic expectation
- 12 regarding the likelihood of cough following DPM
- 13 administration than were the subjects in the Study 301.
- 14 Both studies required a negative outcome to mannitol
- 15 tolerance test at week two -- two to five weeks before
- 16 baseline for randomization. However, the method of
- 17 giving the test drug dose was slightly different
- 18 between two studies.
- 19 The primary efficacy endpoint in each study
- 20 was absolute change from baseline in FEV1 across 26-
- 21 week double-blind treatment period. While numerous
- 22 discrepancies in the statistical method proposed for

- 1 the quantified primary and secondary efficacy data
- 2 existed between the protocol and the statistical
- 3 analysis planned for each of the studies, the applicant
- 4 has indicated that finalization of the SAPs occurred
- 5 before unblinding.
- 6 The division is accepting the method
- 7 described in the SAP as a pre-specified method. In
- 8 each study, the SAP specified analysis method for the
- 9 primary efficacy endpoint was a mixed model for
- 10 repeated measurements or MMRM, with the predictors
- 11 listed here. The predictors differed slightly between
- 12 studies, but not in a way that would materially impact
- 13 the results we are showing you today.
- Both SAP defined "intent-to-treat population"
- 15 as all subjects randomized who receive at least one
- 16 dose of study drug. One interim efficacy analysis was
- 17 conducted in each study. In other words, the DSMB was
- 18 to make recommendations regarding continuing or
- 19 stopping the study, so that to maintain overall Type 1
- 20 error rate of 0.05, the final two-sided significance
- 21 level for reference in the primary efficacy analysis is
- 22 0.0498.

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- 1 For Study 301, no secondary efficacy
- 2 endpoints were distinguished as being a part of a pre-
- 3 specified multiplicity plan to control Type 1 error.
- 4 For Study 302, the SAP specified that a Holm's
- 5 procedure would be applied to the following list of key
- 6 secondary efficacy endpoints.
- 7 This slide provides description of the
- 8 differential early study discontinuation as well as the
- 9 ITT and a modified ITT population that had been
- 10 utilized in the efficacy analysis. We begin with the
- 11 ITT group shown in a table in blue text.
- 12 From here, early study dropout was noted
- 13 before the first post-baseline measurement at week six,
- 14 occurring more frequently in the DPM group than the
- 15 control group. In Study 301, 20 DPM and six control
- 16 patients withdrew without providing any post-baseline
- 17 data. In Study 302, seven DPM and the one control
- 18 patient withdrew without providing any post-baseline data.
- 19 These withdrawals are likely treatment-
- 20 related. However, because these patients have not
- 21 reported any post-baseline measurements, these patients
- 22 are completely excluded from many of efficacy analysis.

- 1 The remaining patients formed the modified ITT or MITT
- 2 population shown here with red text.
- 3 Analysis utilizing the MITT population could
- 4 be biased by exclusion of these subjects. In
- 5 considering the various efficacy analysis, clear
- 6 specification of the -- whether the ITT or MITT
- 7 population has been analyzed is needed for the full
- 8 understanding of the result.
- 9 Differential early discontinuation continued
- 10 throughout the treatment period, so that 64 percent of
- 11 DPM and 73 percent control patients in Study 301, and
- 12 83 percent of DPM and 88 percent of control patient in
- 13 Study 302, complete the intended 26-week treatment period.
- 14 These completion rates are in the purple text
- 15 in the table and illustrate the discontinuation that
- 16 occurred during Studies 301 and 302. The
- 17 discontinuation rates were differential by treatment
- 18 group in both studies, but more prominently so in Study
- 19 301. Overall, the most common reasons for early study
- 20 discontinuation were withdrawal by patient and adverse
- 21 event.
- In order to carry out statistical analysis

- 1 utilizing either the MITT or ITT population,
- 2 assumptions regarding this differentially missing data
- 3 will need to be made. If these assumptions are not
- 4 reflective of the true nature of this data, if this has
- 5 been observed, the treatment effect estimates resulting
- 6 from this analysis may be inaccurate.
- 7 This table shows the result from the SAP pre-
- 8 specified MMRM model for each study. The average
- 9 difference between treatment groups in the change from
- 10 baseline in FEV1 was 83 mL in Study 301 and 54 mL in
- 11 Study 302. In Study 301, this difference is
- 12 statistically significant with the lower limit of the
- 13 95 percent confidence interval, demonstrating that the
- 14 average result was that DPM should be expected to be at
- 15 least a 39 mL greater than that of the control group.
- In Study 302, the difference between
- 17 treatment groups of 54 mL is not statistically
- 18 significant. Highlighting the lower limit of 95 percent
- 19 confidence interval for the difference between the
- 20 treatment group we see that this analysis suggests that
- 21 mean difference between treatment group could be less
- 22 than zero at the negative two mL.

- 1 However, this analysis may be being
- 2 influenced by the differentially missing data
- 3 previously described. First, this analysis utilized the
- 4 MITT population, not the ITT population, and,
- 5 therefore, are impacted by the exclusion of a subject
- 6 without the post-baseline data.
- 7 It is difficult to quantify the impact that
- 8 this subject exclusion may have had on the overall
- 9 estimate of the average treatment effect, but there is
- 10 potential that estimate of the treatment effect being
- 11 shown here is exaggerated.
- 12 Secondly, the subjects with some but not
- 13 completed post -- FEV1 data are included in the MMRM
- 14 analysis by requiring an assumption that the missing
- 15 data been missing at the random, meaning the early
- 16 discontinuation rates are not the same in both
- 17 treatment groups for either study. And the nature of
- 18 the reason for withdrawal suggests that early study
- 19 withdrawal is associated with coughing.
- The missing data likely did not occur at the
- 21 random, but are directly linked to the treatment
- 22 assignment, so that the statistical assumptions require

- 1 that the missing data is missing at the random is not
- 2 justified.
- In summary, the frequency and
- 4 disproportionate early subject discontinuation rate in
- 5 these studies, particularly in the Study 301, raises
- 6 serious statistical concern regarding its accuracy of
- 7 treatment effect resulting from the pre-specified of
- 8 MMRM primary efficacy analysis.
- 9 Many sensitivity analyses were untaken with
- 10 the goal of understanding the impact of missing data
- 11 had on the pre-specified primary efficacy analysis.
- 12 Some of the analyses have been presented by you -- to
- 13 you by applicant. As you may guess, some results are
- 14 better than others, but none of them are perfect.
- 15 While description of the sensitivity analysis
- 16 may at first make them seem conservative, even
- 17 punitive, close examination of assumptions underlying
- 18 several of this method review that this method relied
- 19 heavily on the missing data at random assumptions.
- 20 These methods, therefore, more or less impute the
- 21 missing data by preserving the treatment effect that
- 22 was observed prior to the discontinuation, even though

- 1 DPM patient who had dropped -- have dropped out are no
- 2 longer taking the drug.
- 3 A sensitivity analysis that does not have
- 4 this fault is the baseline observation carried forward
- 5 or BOCF approach. However, BOCF also is not perfect,
- 6 because a single value is imputed for all missing data.
- 7 The variance may be being underestimated.
- 8 The assumption that while we agree with the
- 9 criticism of the method that the BOCF analysis may
- 10 overstate the statistical significance of the result
- 11 slightly, we also believe BOCF provides a conservative
- 12 estimate of the point estimate of treatment effect in
- 13 the setting of the missing data such as is observed in
- 14 this study.
- In Study 301, the difference between DPM and
- 16 the control in the change from based on FEV1 is
- 17 estimated to be 62 mL. This is supportive of the
- 18 conclusion from the pre-specified primary analysis that
- 19 DPM is having more of the effect than control. But it
- 20 suggests that a difference between the treatment group
- 21 is smaller than the point estimate of 83 mL observed in
- 22 the pre-specified analysis.

- In Study 302, this difference is estimated to 1 be 65 mL, and it's fairly consistent with the pre-2 specified analysis. To supplement and the pre-3 specified and BOCF analysis, next I will present an additional method for summarizing the primary efficacy 5 data that accounts for the missing data by considering subject with the missing data as a non-responder. 7 This slide shows the post-hoc analysis of the 8 primary efficacy endpoint, which is referred to as a 10 continuous response plot. This analysis is desirable 11 because in this analysis all patients who discontinued the study early are considered in non-responder. 12 believe this is appropriate characterization of the 13 performance of study treatment, and that if a subject 14 15 is not willing to continue taking the medication, no 16 efficacy can be expected to be gained from the product. In this plot, the horizontal X-axis displays 17 the threshold required to classify a patient as a 18 19 responder. This vertical Y-axis presents the proportion 20 of ITT patients who achieved the corresponding
- 22 represented by the red line and the proportion of a

threshold. The proportion of DPM responders is

21

- 1 control responder by the blue.
- 2 Interpreting these figures we first note that
- 3 the curve showed initial dramatic drop from 100 percent
- 4 to approximately 60 percent to 75 percent in the Y-
- 5 axis. This corresponds to the proportion of the patient
- 6 who discontinued the study early, since the patients
- 7 with the missing data were classified as non-responder
- 8 for all thresholds.
- 9 Moving towards the right of the figure in
- 10 each study there is some separation between the
- 11 treatment groups with the DPM group having numerically
- 12 higher proportion of patients who achieved an increased
- 13 change from baseline in FEV1 threshold than does the
- 14 control group. This is evident by the fact that the
- 15 red line generally lies above the blue line in those
- 16 figures.
- On the next slides, we will provide test for
- 18 the difference between the treatment group in this
- 19 curve at several special thresholds.
- This table provides a comparison of the
- 21 proportion of DPM and the control subject who achieved
- 22 at least a 50, 75, or 100 mL change in FEV1 from

- 1 baseline to week 26. The entire ITT population is
- 2 included in this analysis. Patients with the missing
- 3 data are classified as a non-responder for this
- 4 analysis. For Study 301, there was no statistically
- 5 significant difference between treatment groups in the
- 6 proportion of DPM responder compared to that of the
- 7 control patients. However, numerical trends that
- 8 favored DPM over control were present at each threshold
- 9 examined.
- 10 These numerical trends are consistent with
- 11 the indication from the MMRM analysis that DPM have
- 12 provided a beneficial effect on the primary efficacy
- 13 and endpoint as compared to control.
- 14 For Study 302, the differences between the
- 15 treatment groups and the proportion of the subject who
- 16 achieved each threshold examined were higher in the DPM
- 17 group than control group. This is supportive of the
- 18 suggestion of the beneficial effect of DPM relative to
- 19 control on the primary efficacy endpoint.
- 20 Both MMRM and responder analysis will be
- 21 discussed further in a few minutes by Dr. Permutt.
- I am now moving to the presentation of the

- 1 selected secondary efficacy endpoints. The conclusion
- 2 regarding treatment effect on the spirometry-related
- 3 endpoints generally would be expected to be similar to
- 4 that of the primary efficacy endpoint. They examined
- 5 the effect on the DPM outside that of the spirometry-
- 6 related endpoint. The following endpoints were
- 7 selected by FDA clinical team, and they were presented
- 8 here -- pulmonary exacerbation, rescue antibiotic use,
- 9 hospitalization, and a quality of life measure.
- By treatment group, comparison of the rate of
- 11 the pulmonary exacerbation is provided in this table.
- 12 This analysis includes the entire ITT population.
- 13 However, the result may have been impacted by the
- 14 differential early study discontinuation in that
- 15 patients who are not participating in the study are not
- 16 available to report occurrence of the event.
- 17 While this analysis is to adjust for the
- 18 differential exposure time, the also missing data
- 19 would have been missed similar to observed data if they
- 20 had been observed, which may not be a realistic
- 21 assumption. Regardless, no statistical significant
- 22 difference between the treatment group in the rate of

- 1 exacerbation were observed in the NDA study.
- 2 The applicant had highlighted this data,
- 3 saying that the numerical trends are supportive for the
- 4 treatment of DPM. However, even the numerical trend
- 5 may be artificially inflated because the differential
- 6 missing data. This is especially the case for Study
- 7 301.
- 8 Similar results were observed for the rate of
- 9 the rescue antibiotic use episodes and the rate of
- 10 hospitalization due to exacerbation. No statistically
- 11 significant difference between treatment groups for
- 12 either endpoints were observed in either study.
- 13 Quality of life was a measure used the
- 14 quality of life respiratory domain from the cystic
- 15 fibrosis questionnaire. For this endpoint, the pre-
- 16 specified analysis difference between studies. For the
- 17 Study 301, the pre-specified method was the MMRM model
- 18 estimating overall effect across 26-week treatment
- 19 period. For Study 302, the SAP specified that effect
- 20 would be estimated at the week 26 using ANCOVA model
- 21 and LOCF imputation method. No statistically
- 22 significant difference between treatment groups in the

- 1 quality of life were observed in either study.
- I am moving now to the subgroup analysis of a
- 3 primary efficacy endpoint by age group. Because of the
- 4 differential early study discontinuation, and the
- 5 descriptive nature of subgroup analysis in general, the
- 6 cumulative responder plot are being employed here.
- 7 This slide shows result for Study 301 on the
- 8 left is cumulative respond plot for the six to 17 years
- 9 age group. On the right is the same for the 18 and
- 10 older group. There was about 100 patients age six to
- 11 17 years old, and 200 patients were 18 and older. For
- 12 this study, we note that numerical difference between
- 13 the proportion of DPM responders and that of the
- 14 control subjects appear to be smaller in the younger
- 15 age group than the adult group.
- For example, at the threshold of the 100 mL,
- 17 the numerical difference between treatment groups in
- 18 the proportion of a successful treatment with DPM and
- 19 the control subjects is zero percent in the six- to 17-
- 20 years- old subjects, while it is 11 percent in the 18
- 21 and older subjects.
- 22 This is unknown whether this numerical

- 1 difference in the treatment effects, besides the
- 2 difference in two age groups in Study 301, represent a
- 3 real difference in the performance of a DPM by age
- 4 group or merely random variation.
- 5 Study 302 suggests a different conclusion
- 6 regarding the effect of the DPM in pediatric as
- 7 compared to adult. The numeric -- number of the
- 8 patient were evenly distributed in the two age groups.
- 9 The treatment difference in adult and the pediatric was
- 10 similar in both age groups.
- In summary, the overriding statistical
- 12 concern in the analysis of efficacy data in Studies 301
- 13 and 302 is the treatment-related or frequent early
- 14 study discontinuations. This is more problematic in
- 15 the Study 301 than the Study 302. In Study 301, 64
- 16 percent of DPM and 73 percent of control subjects
- 17 completed the 26-week treatment period.
- 18 In Study 302, the 83 percent of DPM and 88
- 19 percent of the control subjects completed a 26-week
- 20 treatment period. The MMRM estimates of the treatment
- 21 effect using the continuous change from baseline and
- 22 FEV1 outcome may not be accurate, because the

- 1 differential effect this early study withdrawal may
- 2 have been had.
- 3 BOCF analysis and the continued response are
- 4 numerically consistent with a positive treatment effect
- 5 for DPM related to the control. But for the Study 301,
- 6 this analysis suggests that the magnitude of the
- 7 treatment effect size may be smaller than the 83 mL
- 8 estimated by the pre-specified analysis.
- 9 To summarize the conclusion regarding the
- 10 secondary efficacy endpoints, no statistical significant
- 11 difference between treatment groups were demonstrated
- 12 for any non-spirometry endpoint. This statement may
- 13 seem in conflict with some material regarding the
- 14 secondary efficacy endpoint that is included in the
- 15 applicant's briefing package as well as their
- 16 presentation here today.
- 17 The major difference between the presentation
- 18 of a secondary endpoint by the applicant as compared to
- 19 that by the FDA is that the applicant is frequently
- 20 highlighting the numerical difference without reference
- 21 to their lack of statistical significance.
- Finally, in Study 301, numerical difference

- 1 between the treatment group in the cumulative response
- 2 plot for the primary efficacy endpoint appear to be
- 3 smaller in the age six to 17 group compared that in the
- 4 age 18 and above. This type of difference in the
- 5 treatment effect between the age groups was not
- 6 observed in Study 302.
- 7 Next, I would like to introduce Dr. Permutt.
- 8 Dr. Permutt will comment further on both the pre-
- 9 specified and the sensitivity analysis used to quantify
- 10 the primary efficacy endpoint.
- 11 Thank you.
- DR. PERMUTT: I'm Tom Permutt. I supervise
- 13 the statisticians who have primarily reviewed this
- 14 product. Because the statistical issues here are
- 15 crucial to understanding the effect of the drug, and
- 16 especially because they turn on problems of missing
- 17 data, which are a special interest of mine, I think it
- 18 is appropriate for me to give you my perspective on the
- 19 results.
- 20 FDA statisticians usually lay heavy stress on
- 21 the pre-specified primary analysis. We haven't here,
- 22 and I want to talk about why and about what we've done

- 1 instead. We also often like to focus on analysis of
- 2 all patients treated regardless of adherence, and I'll
- 3 talk about how this case might be a little different.
- 4 I'll tell you about the role played by
- 5 sensitivity analysis in persuading us that the product
- 6 has an effect on FEV1, and I will -- at least in Study
- 7 301, and I will show you how I think that effect should
- 8 be described.
- 9 The pre-specified primary analysis, as you
- 10 have heard, used a mixed model for repeated measures.
- 11 That's a precise but somewhat obscure and somewhat
- 12 ambiguous way of describing what was done. In fact,
- 13 the analysis amounts approximately to calculating the
- 14 average across time of the available observations for
- 15 each patient and then a t-test comparing a means for
- 16 the two groups.
- 17 It is a good statistical method for answering
- 18 a different question than the one I think is important
- 19 here. In particular, it may be an excellent method in
- 20 cases where subjects are lost to followup and you don't
- 21 know what happened to them, and you want to estimate
- 22 what happened to them as best you can from what you

- 1 know about patients who were not lost to followup.
- 2 That is not what we have here. We have a
- 3 substantial minority of patients who were unable to
- 4 tolerate the treatment. We know what happened to them.
- 5 They stopped taking it. It would not be reasonable to
- 6 think their outcomes were like the patients' and people
- 7 who continued taking it.
- 8 More specifically, a patient who tolerates
- 9 the drug up to, say, the first visit and has improved
- 10 pulmonary function at that visit, and then has to
- 11 discontinue, contributes good score to the analysis,
- 12 but such a patient has not had a good outcome.
- Okay. But most patients did tolerate the
- 14 treatment. We can ask, as some people have suggested
- 15 earlier this morning, how much their pulmonary -- we
- 16 can ask how much the pulmonary function improved in the
- 17 tolerators. Is this what we want to know here? Well,
- 18 actually, I think it might be. This is not like, say,
- 19 chemotherapy where everybody gets treated, everybody
- 20 suffers toxicity, and the primary question about
- 21 outcome just has to be, how did everybody do?
- Here people who don't tolerate the treatment

- 1 stop taking it. They may not have been harmed much.
- 2 And I think you can make a strong argument that what
- 3 you would most like to know is what happens to people
- 4 who do take it. Unfortunately, that is not at all easy
- 5 to estimate.
- The obvious thing, as, for example, Dr. Flume
- 7 suggested, is to look at the people in the active group
- 8 who did in fact complete the course of treatment.
- 9 Well, so far so good. The trouble is, compared to
- 10 whom? You would need to compare them to people like
- 11 them in the control group, but you can't tell who in
- 12 the control group are like them in the relevant way,
- 13 which is that they would have tolerated the active
- 14 treatment.
- Unfortunately, even what are here called
- 16 intent to treat analyses, as you have heard, suffer
- 17 from the same defect because early dropouts are
- 18 excluded. So, in this case, the pre-specified analysis
- 19 on its own is not altogether persuasive to us, and
- 20 there is no simple fix. We've seen a lot of alternative
- 21 analyses presented both by the applicant, by Ms. Zhou.
- 22 Many of them suffer from the same basic

- 1 defect as the primary analysis in that they effectively
- 2 assign good scores for patients who improve and then
- 3 discontinue.
- 4 This slide doesn't represent data, but it is
- 5 meant to show schematically what the various
- 6 sensitivity analyses do with a patient who does well at
- 7 the first visit and then drops out. And I can be brief
- 8 here because Dr. Herring has already made these points
- 9 rather eloquently, but let me try to reinforce them a
- 10 little bit.
- 11 Very broadly, there are two kinds of analysis
- 12 shown here, one in green and the rest in not green. So
- 13 look at the solid lines, which represent a hypothetical
- 14 patient in the active treatment group. He gets better
- 15 and then drops out. The three top lines are all
- 16 different methods represented in the sensitivity
- 17 analyses, but they all impute, on average, an improved
- 18 score to this patient.
- 19 The green line represents a return to
- 20 baseline. As a primary analysis, as you've heard,
- 21 baseline imputation has been rightly criticized with
- 22 imputing what may sometimes be an unrealistically bad

- 1 score, and as well because of the problem of
- 2 variability. The green line does not bounce around.
- 3 The top three solid lines bounce around from visit to
- 4 visit, both systematically with the -- as the average
- 5 scores of patients who do complete vary across visits
- 6 and also randomly, and we don't get that bouncing
- 7 around in the -- in the green baseline carried forward
- 8 analysis.
- 9 We are not too keen on it as a primary
- 10 analysis. What we would like to see here, as Dr.
- 11 Herring and the conversation that followed Dr.
- 12 Herring's remarks suggested, is an analysis that
- 13 incorporates the good feature of the other analyses in
- 14 terms of accounting for variability with the good
- 15 feature of baseline that it does not impute a benefit
- 16 to patients who might get better for a while and then
- 17 drop out because, as Ms. Zhou said, we don't expect
- 18 those patients to be benefitting from treatment in the
- 19 long term.
- 20 So we don't have an analysis just like that
- 21 to show you. We are confident that the sensitivity
- 22 analyses taken as a whole support the primary analysis

- 1 in Study 301 and rule out the possibility that the
- 2 positive result is attributable solely to the way
- 3 missing data were handled.
- We do think the effect on FEV1, though non-
- 5 zero, is probably somewhat overstated by the primary
- 6 analysis. Smaller values around 50 or 60 milliliters,
- 7 rather than 80, seen in some other analyses of Study
- 8 301, as well as in Study 302, are more realistic.
- 9 Besides the mean effect, another way to
- 10 describe the effect on FEV1 is by carefully
- 11 interpreting the empirical distribution functions,
- 12 because that's what they are, that Ms. Zhou showed you.
- Now, I share Dr. Fox's concern about the loss
- 14 of information in arbitrary dichotomies. But if you
- 15 consider all the possible dichotomies, you actually get
- 16 all of the information back. And, besides, once you
- 17 have convinced yourself that there is an effect, if you
- 18 do convince yourself of that, I think it is -- these
- 19 curves are a very useful way of looking at what that
- 20 effect is.
- 21 So let me remind you about how this graph was
- 22 constructed. All patients randomized are shown here.

- 1 Dropouts are shown on the left side, and what the left
- 2 part of the curve looks like depends a lot on what
- 3 assumptions you make about dropouts, but that's not so
- 4 for the right side of the curve.
- 5 So, for example, if you look where we have
- 6 drawn the vertical reference line at 100 milliliters,
- 7 about 35 percent of patients on active drug, about 28
- 8 percent of papers on control, had such an improvement,
- 9 an improvement of 100 milliliters or better.
- 10 It is a difference of about seven percent.
- 11 Another way of saying that is for every 100 patients
- 12 treated, seven might have an improvement of that
- 13 magnitude attributable to the drug. We don't focus
- 14 exclusively on 100 milliliters, of course. You can see
- 15 more or less similar results at 50 or 200 or other
- 16 values. There is uncertainty, which is difficult to
- 17 portray in this kind of graph.
- 18 Again, there is little enough uncertainty
- 19 that we are reasonably confident the effect is in the
- 20 right direction. But it could be numerically
- 21 substantially more or less than we are seeing.
- 22 Study 302, you see rather different-looking

- 1 curves, and the applicant and the FDA are agreed that
- 2 the results in Study 302 should not be taken as
- 3 statistically significant. They don't so much
- 4 contradict the results of Study 301 as lend it very
- 5 weak support.
- 6 They tell a fairly similar story.
- 7 Improvements in FEV1 of 50 or 100 milliliters were seen
- 8 in a substantial minority of patients on control, and
- 9 in a slightly larger minority on active drug.
- 10 Thank you for your attention. Clinical Review
- 11 of Efficacy, Safety, and Risk/Benefit
- DR. WITZMANN: Thank you. I will deliver the
- 13 last presentation for the FDA this morning.
- 14 Here is the outline for this portion of my
- 15 presentation. I will begin by discussing the clinical
- 16 implications of the efficacy data, which you have just
- 17 heard presented by the FDA statistical team, with the
- 18 goal of providing contacts for the clinical
- 19 interpretation of this data.
- 20 Next, I will review safety data with a
- 21 presentation of the main safety results including non-
- 22 fatal serious adverse events, withdrawals due to

- 1 adverse events, and common adverse events, with a focus
- 2 on some specific safety concerns and safety for the
- 3 subgroup of pediatric patients.
- 4 Finally, I will conclude by providing a
- 5 framework for discussion of the risk/benefit profile
- 6 for DPM.
- 7 So, to begin, let me summarize the efficacy
- 8 findings for DPM in CF. In the sponsor's primary
- 9 efficacy analysis submitted to the NDA utilizing the
- 10 MMRM in the modified ITT population, which does not
- 11 include data from those patients who dropped out before
- 12 week six.
- 13 Study 301 shows the statistically significant
- 14 improvement in FEV1, but Study 302 does not. Most of
- 15 the sponsor's sensitivity analyses provide support to the
- 16 significance in Study 301, as you have seen in previous
- 17 presentations.
- 18 The second portion of this table lists an
- 19 additional sensitivity analysis conducted by FDA, the
- 20 baseline observation carried forward analysis, for the
- 21 full ITT population. For Study 301, it, too, made
- 22 statistical significance with 95 percent confidence

- 1 intervals from 15 to 107 milliliters.
- 2 So the results of this additional analysis
- 3 remain consistent with the results achieved in the
- 4 sponsor's primary analysis of Study 301 and supports
- 5 the idea that the positive result for Study 301 was not
- 6 due solely to the way missing data were handled.
- 7 Note that the result for Study 302 continues
- 8 to not meet statistical significance for this baseline
- 9 observation carried forward sensitivity analysis.
- 10 So how do we interpret this data? We need to
- 11 examine how we think of FEV1 as an endpoint for CF in
- 12 the context of drug development. First, inhaled
- 13 mannitol is not a bronchodilator, but, rather, it
- 14 facilities airway clearance. Therefore, the change we
- 15 would expect with chronic use should result in improved
- 16 pulmonary outcomes.
- In this case, FEV1 is being used as a measure
- 18 for overall improvement in pulmonary function. In the
- 19 context of cystic fibrosis, we would expect that
- 20 meaningful improvement should carry over to other non-
- 21 spirometric endpoints that better reflect overall
- 22 pulmonary function, such as fewer infections,

- 1 hospitalizations, and exacerbations and a better
- 2 quality of life.
- 3 So if DPM were having significant impact upon
- 4 overall pulmonary function, we would expect to see
- 5 support from clinically meaningful secondary endpoints
- 6 chosen in these studies. In this light, Studies 301
- 7 and 302 showed numerically positive trends but no
- 8 statistically significant changes in any of the chosen
- 9 secondary endpoints, including incidence of or time to
- 10 first pulmonary exacerbation, rescue antibiotic use,
- 11 days in the hospital due to exacerbation, or quality of
- 12 life scores.
- 13 It is important to note that the 26-week
- 14 timeframe is not significant, is not substantial enough
- 15 to truly measure exacerbation changes as we previously
- 16 mentioned. It is also possible that the small change
- 17 in absolute FEV1 seen is too small to impact more
- 18 clinically meaningful outcomes in a 26-week study
- 19 period as we had discussed with the sponsor at the end
- 20 of Phase II meeting.
- 21 Next, I would like to examine efficacy in the
- 22 pediatric population. This is important because the

- 1 proposed indication is for patients six years and
- 2 older, and 43 percent of the ITT population was less
- 3 than 18 years of age.
- 4 You saw from the FEV1 changes in the
- 5 sponsor's pooled study data in the forest plots that
- 6 for pediatrics the 95 percent confidence intervals
- 7 crossed zero. Ms. Zhou has shown you these cumulative
- 8 responder plots for pediatric patients six to 17 years
- 9 of age based on the ITT population for both Studies 301
- 10 and 302.
- 11 The graph for Study 301 is on the left and
- 12 302 is on the right. To orient you, the X-axis shows
- 13 the specific thresholds for change from baseline FEV1
- 14 with the greater than or equal to 100 milliliter
- 15 vertical demarcation as a reference. The Y-axis is the
- 16 percentage of patients who met each cutoff, with DPM
- 17 line in red and the control line in blue.
- 18 For Study 301, the numerical difference
- 19 between the proportion of DPM subjects achieving the
- 20 various thresholds and the primary efficacy endpoint,
- 21 as demonstrated by the red line, and that of control
- 22 subjects in blue, shows little separation of the

- 1 curves, suggesting a lack of effect for pediatric
- 2 patients in the study.
- 3 Study 302 suggests a different conclusion
- 4 regarding the effect of DPM in pediatrics with results
- 5 similar to that seen both in adults and the ITT
- 6 population as a whole. So Study 301, which
- 7 demonstrates significant -- excuse me, statistical
- 8 significance overall, does not show separation between
- 9 treatment groups for the six- to 17-year-old
- 10 population, raising the question of the degree to which
- 11 we can clinically feel comfortable that the benefits
- 12 seen overall in 301 extends to the pediatric group.
- We will ask you to discuss this efficacy, in
- 14 addition to the pediatric safety information to follow,
- 15 when you discuss the risk/benefit profile of DPM for
- 16 the pediatric population.
- 17 So let's review and place into clinical
- 18 context what we know for these two studies. First,
- 19 Study 301 has significant and differential dropout with
- 20 36 percent of the DPM and 27 percent of control
- 21 patients withdrawing before the end of the 26-week,
- 22 double-blinded period. This primary analysis does meet

- 1 statistical significance, and the sensitivity analyses
- 2 provide evidence that the effect seen is not due to
- 3 chance alone.
- 4 The point estimates from sensitivity analyses
- 5 range from 59 to 83 mLs, as you saw in Ms. Zhou's
- 6 presentation. However, when looking at the 95 percent
- 7 confidence intervals, the treatment effect could be as
- 8 small as 15 milliliters. An additional complication is
- 9 that the differential dropout creates two different
- 10 groups which we are trying to compare to one another to
- 11 determine the treatment effect, the DPM group of
- 12 tolerators as compared to a group of patients on
- 13 control who may or may not tolerate DPM chronically.
- 14 Because of this apples-to-oranges comparison,
- 15 we lose the ability to assess the magnitude of change
- 16 in FEV1 across the treatment versus control groups of
- 17 the CF population originally selected for
- 18 randomization. For regulatory purposes on which to
- 19 base drug approval, we typically need a comparison in
- 20 the same population -- in this case, DPM chronic
- 21 tolerators -- to determine a treatment effect.
- For Study 302, missing data was not as

- 1 problematic. However, Study 302 failed to meet the
- 2 usual standard for statistical significance with a P
- 3 value of 0.059. Sensitivity analyses for this study
- 4 have FEV1 point estimates in the range of 49 to 63 mLs.
- 5 Because of a small change in FEV1 and
- 6 statistical significance being achieved in only one
- 7 study, it is important to look to other clinically
- 8 meaningful secondary outcomes to support FEV1 as we
- 9 previously told the sponsor. In this case, we see that
- 10 sometimes these secondary endpoints numerically favor
- 11 DPM, but none reach statistical significance. As such,
- 12 the secondary endpoints provide limited support to
- 13 reassure us that the small change in FEV1 is
- 14 representative of any other clinically meaningful
- 15 pulmonary improvement.
- Last, when we examine the pediatric efficacy
- 17 data which was presented by Ms. Zhou in the statistical
- 18 discussion, there appears to be variability between
- 19 results from each study, with 301 suggesting a lack of
- 20 benefit while data from 302 suggests benefit in FEV1
- 21 similar to the overall study population.
- When taken into context of the risk profile

- 1 for DPM, a relative lack of efficacy in pediatric
- 2 patients would be concerning. These are all clinical
- 3 issues we would like for you on the Committee to
- 4 explore further in your discussions of the efficacy of
- 5 DPM.
- 6 Now, I will move on to the review of safety
- 7 for DPM. Overall, the exposure to 400 milligrams twice
- 8 daily of DPM shown here is reasonable for an orphan
- 9 disease and meets the regulatory safety guidance
- 10 recommendations for a product to be administered
- 11 chronically to patients.
- This slide demonstrates the major safety
- 13 findings for the combined safety set, which includes
- 14 the 26-week, double-blinded periods of Studies 301 and
- 15 302. There were no deaths for any patient actively
- 16 receiving study drug. The percentage of patients with
- 17 at least one serious adverse event numerically favors
- 18 DPM, and the number of subjects with at least one
- 19 adverse event is very similar between groups, also
- 20 favoring DPM.
- However, the number of patients who
- 22 discontinued for any reason, and number of patients who

- 1 discontinued due to an adverse event, is higher in the
- 2 DPM group. We will explore these categories further.
- 3 It is also important to note that
- 4 discontinuation for any reason includes the category of
- 5 patient withdrawal, which meant that the patient was
- 6 able to withdraw from the study without clarifying
- 7 additional reason for why they did so.
- 8 This table demonstrates all serious adverse
- 9 events that occurred in more than two patients in the
- 10 safety population during the double-blind period. So
- 11 all preferred terms do not equal the totals shown on
- 12 the system organ class lines.
- 13 The most frequent serious adverse event in
- 14 both groups was for CF pulmonary exacerbation, coded as
- 15 condition aggravated, with 17 percent reported in the
- 16 DPM group and 19 percent in control group. The second
- 17 most common event for the treatment group was
- 18 hemoptysis, with a higher rate of occurrence in the DPM
- 19 group at eight or 2.2 percent versus two patients or
- 20 0.8 percent for the control group.
- 21 Remember that this was in a group of patients
- 22 who had not experienced any significant bleeding in the

- 1 three months prior to screening. Lower respiratory
- 2 tract infections did not occur at a higher rate in DPM
- 3 versus control.
- 4 This table lists discontinuations due to
- 5 adverse events that occurred in more than two patients
- 6 in the safety population during the double-blinded
- 7 period. A total of 41 or 11 percent of patients from
- 8 the DPM group, and 15 or six percent from the control
- 9 group, withdrew from trials due to adverse events.
- 10 Almost twice as many in the treatment group
- 11 discontinued as those who received control.
- Most of the discontinuations in the DPM group
- 13 were from adverse events likely to be associated with
- 14 inhaled mannitol, including cough, hemoptysis,
- 15 bronchospasm, chest discomfort, and pharynolaryngeal
- 16 pain. No distinct subpopulations were
- 17 disproportionately represented in the dropouts.
- 18 Not displayed here, in the open-label phase
- 19 there was a higher rate of discontinuation for those
- 20 patients who initially received control during the
- 21 double-blind period, and then rolled over into open-
- 22 label treatment with DPM. These subjects withdrew at a

- 1 rate of nine percent versus two percent for those
- 2 continuing DPM. So chronic tolerability of DPM was an
- 3 issue, even in open-label observation.
- 4 Next, I will move on to a discussion of
- 5 specific safety concerns. Knowing that DPM is marked
- 6 as a bronchoprovocation agent, we examined the safety
- 7 database for episodes of bronchospasm. And because
- 8 hemoptysis was seen more in those receiving DPM in the
- 9 major safety events, it was examined more closely. So
- 10 these issues, in addition to overall tolerability, were
- 11 examined specifically for this program.
- 12 As you recall, 10 percent of screened
- 13 patients failed to complete their DPM test dose, or
- 14 MTT, so were not included in the intend to treat
- 15 population. With regard to bronchospasm episodes
- 16 during double-blinded treatment, you can see that there
- 17 is a slightly higher but not significant increase of
- 18 symptoms in the treatment group over control when
- 19 taking into consideration all adverse events that might
- 20 be associated with a bronchospasm. All patients were
- 21 pre-treated with a bronchodilator prior to study drug
- 22 administration.

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- 1 Patients with a history -- with a previous
- 2 history of significant hemoptysis episode, defined as
- 3 greater than 60 milliliters of blood within the three
- 4 months prior to study, were excluded from the study.
- 5 This table shows reported events of hemoptysis,
- 6 including rates of serious adverse events, adverse
- 7 events leading to withdrawal, adverse events in
- 8 general, and the subgroup of adverse events classified
- 9 as severe by the investigator, specifically for
- 10 hemoptysis.
- 11 While none of these occurs with high
- 12 frequency, the double-blind treatment period has
- 13 reports of hemoptysis two to three times higher in all
- 14 categories for the DPM treated group compared to
- 15 controls. This increase in hemoptysis was also seen in
- 16 open-label treatment. Patients who received control
- 17 have increased rates of hemoptysis events once
- 18 beginning open-label DPM that is similar to double-
- 19 blinded DPM treatment.
- Those who receive DPM in the double-blinded
- 21 treatment period continued to have rates of hemoptysis
- 22 higher than the original control arm, but the rate did

- 1 not continue to rise with continued use. A specific
- 2 risk of hemoptysis in the pediatric subgroup will be
- 3 discussed later in this presentation.
- 4 This slide presents the most common adverse
- 5 reactions which occurred at a rate greater than four
- 6 percent of DPM treated patients and greater than
- 7 control in the Phase III double-blinded study period.
- 8 As you can see, the majority of events would be
- 9 expected with the use of inhaled DPM including cough,
- 10 pharyngeal irritation, hemoptysis, and vomiting.
- 11 There were two subgroups of patients
- 12 evaluated during the safety review, including pediatric
- 13 patients and those with severe lung disease. I will
- 14 show you the safety data for the pediatric population
- 15 in terms of overall safety, and then specifically for
- 16 risk of hemoptysis, in the next few slides.
- 17 Severe lung disease, defined by an FEV1 less
- 18 than or equal to 40 percent predicted, will not be
- 19 shown. But, in general, similar patterns were seen to
- 20 the overall safety population in terms of adverse
- 21 events, except in two important areas. First,
- 22 discontinuations due to adverse events occurred twice

- 1 as often in DPM treated patients with severe lung
- 2 disease than in controls. Second, adverse events of
- 3 hemoptysis occurred at a rate of 19 percent in DPM
- 4 treated patients with severe lung disease versus 10
- 5 percent of controls.
- 6 The pediatric population includes patients
- 7 less than 18 years old and accounts for 43 percent of
- 8 the total safety database, or 259 of 600 patients. In
- 9 general, the number of patients with any serious
- 10 adverse event, and with any adverse event, are both
- 11 lower for the DPM group.
- However, the number of subjects with an
- 13 adverse event leading to discontinuation is higher in
- 14 the DPM group and double that of control at six percent
- 15 versus three percent. So we also see the effect of
- 16 chronic tolerability issues in the pediatric group.
- The findings for hemoptysis were more
- 18 pronounced in pediatrics. As you heard in Dr. Ratjen's
- 19 discussion, the majority of pediatric patients have
- 20 lung function within the range of normal. So this is
- 21 especially concerning given the expectation that most
- 22 pediatric patients have preservation of lung function

- 1 and would be less likely in general to exhibit
- 2 hemoptysis.
- 3 When examining cases of hemoptysis by age
- 4 group, you can see that although less for pediatric
- 5 patients than adults, the rate of any hemoptysis in
- 6 pediatrics is four times that of control, and the rate
- 7 of serious adverse events in hemoptysis is twice that
- 8 of control.
- 9 The number when examined by age subgroup of
- 10 six to 11 years and 12 to 17 years continues to show
- 11 this disparity with a difference in hemoptysis events
- 12 even in the youngest group of patients. The sponsor
- 13 suggests that pediatric patients having lower baseline
- 14 FEV1 led to a higher rate of hemoptysis. Lower percent
- 15 predicted FEV1 at baseline in the younger age groups
- 16 may be an explanation for why younger subjects in
- 17 either treatment group experience hemoptysis more
- 18 frequently.
- 19 However, it is not a reasonable explanation
- 20 for why the difference between treatment groups in the
- 21 younger subjects should be larger than that of older
- 22 subjects.

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- 1 The sponsor performed an additional data
- 2 capture which combined hemoptysis events reported as
- 3 adverse events and episodes associated with
- 4 exacerbation. There is still a higher incidence in the
- 5 pediatric/adolescent patients who received DPM 400
- 6 versus those who received control.
- 7 So, to summarize the safety data, after 10
- 8 percent of screened patients were removed prior to
- 9 randomization, specific events of acute bronchospasm
- 10 were not substantially different between groups.
- 11 Hemoptysis, although low in occurrence overall, was a
- 12 significant issue with twice as many serious adverse
- 13 events and severe adverse events in those treated with
- 14 DPM over control, regardless of age.
- The issue of overall tolerability continued
- 16 to play a role, even if one could pass the MTT, with
- 17 additional adverse events due to cough, throat pain,
- 18 vomiting, and hemoptysis occurring more commonly.
- 19 These events were also a frequent cause for
- 20 discontinuation in the DPM group with withdrawals twice
- 21 as common in treatment versus control groups.
- 22 Specifically, for the pediatric population,

- 1 discontinuations due to adverse events were higher in
- 2 the treatment group over control, and hemoptysis
- 3 occurred in the DPM group three to four times as much
- 4 as in the control group. This was most notable in the
- 5 youngest pediatric group of six- to 11-year-olds with
- 6 all cases of hemoptysis occurring in the treatment
- 7 group versus zero in the control.
- 8 For the subgroup of patients with severe lung
- 9 disease, those on DPM had higher withdrawal rates as
- 10 well as higher rates of adverse events of hemoptysis
- 11 than those receiving control, mirroring that of the
- 12 general safety population.
- 13 Finally, I will discuss the framework for an
- 14 overall benefit/risk assessment of the DPM program
- 15 about which we would like you on the Committee to
- 16 discuss further this afternoon. Considering benefit,
- 17 we have seen from the analyses presented that Study 301
- 18 was positive but Study 302 was negative or equivocal.
- 19 Because of the missing data and differential dropout,
- 20 multiple sensitivity analyses were performed to support
- 21 the positive result for Study 301. And it was not due
- 22 solely to the way missing data were handled.

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- 1 Another point is the range of effect
- 2 identified in these sensitivity analyses of roughly 50
- 3 to 83 mLs, or two and a half to four percent of the
- 4 absolute FEV1, a clinically meaningful effect? And a
- 5 separate but related issue is that the missing data
- 6 from Study 301 make it difficult to estimate the
- 7 overall treatment effect on
- 8 FEV1.
- 9 The dropout data create an apples-to-oranges
- 10 comparison of DPM chronic tolerators to control
- 11 patients who may or may not tolerate DPM, so that the
- 12 treatment effect may not be accurately defined. Also,
- 13 some secondary endpoints numerically favor DPM, but
- 14 none reach statistical significance. Therefore, there
- 15 is limited support to reassure us that the small change
- 16 in FEV1 is representative of other clinically
- 17 meaningful pulmonary improvement.
- 18 With regard to risks, DPM is poorly tolerated
- 19 in some patients as evidenced by those unable to
- 20 complete the initial mannitol tolerance test, and by
- 21 increased adverse events related to overall
- 22 tolerability. The number of withdrawals due to adverse

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events for the DPM group was consistently twice that of

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- controls, and hemoptysis events were consistently 2
- greater in DPM treated patients. 3
- With regard to the pediatric population, the
- data for efficacy is less convincing than for the 5
- population as a whole, and increased rates of hemoptysis
- are clinically meaningful events. 7
- 8 In closing, as you hear the charge to the
- Committee, which will be delivered by Dr. Durmowicz
- 10 later this afternoon, and as you discuss the questions
- posed to you, we ask you to keep in mind this slide. 11
- The primary question for the Committee is whether the 12
- submitted data represents substantial evidence of 13
- efficacy and if the safety database is supportive. 14
- This concludes the FDA's presentation. Thank 15
- 16 you for your attention.
- DR. JACOBY: Thank you very much. 17
- 18 There is time for some well-focused and
- 19 concisely stated questions from the Committee, and I
- 20 would ask the Committee to limit your questions to
- clarifying issues that we will need to make a decision 21
- 22 as to how you are going to vote on things. There will

- 1 be further discussion of all of this before we have the
- 2 vote.
- 3 Yes, Dr. Blake. Clarifying Questions to the
- 4 Presenters
- 5 DR. BLAKE: I have a question about the
- 6 primary endpoint. When the FDA had discussions with
- 7 the sponsor, had the primary endpoint already been
- 8 decided? And, if not, then how come some of those
- 9 other secondary endpoints which you describe as being
- 10 more important if the drug is not a bronchodilator, why
- 11 weren't they selected as the primary endpoint?
- DR. DURMOWICZ: Our discussion with the
- 13 sponsor around endpoints back in 2005/2006 time
- 14 delineated pretty much what would be required with
- 15 different endpoints. An FEV1 endpoint would require a
- 16 less long study if you will. An exacerbation endpoint
- 17 would require a longer study of at least a year to be
- 18 able to capture enough events to be confident in them.
- 19 We didn't select the endpoints for the
- 20 sponsor. We gave them the requirements for them, and
- 21 they selected them including the absolute change in
- 22 FEV1 as opposed to a percent predicted change.

As you heard, and as we stated at the end of 1 Phase II meeting in 2005, since FEV1 is not a 2 bronchodilator and would be supposedly reflective of 3 longer term, clinically meaningful changes in lung -in other endpoints, we stated that they needed to have 5 robust support from secondary endpoints. 7 Now, whether that meets statistical significance or not is an open question, because they are not necessarily powered for every endpoint that 10 they can have. But the fact of the fact that especially for 301 they didn't pre-specify any 11 secondary endpoints, and everything is -- and nothing 12 is adjusted for Type 1 error, and the trend is not that 13 great, kind of shows a not favorable light on the --14 15 beyond the FEV1. 16 So FEV1 alone would be the thing that really is supporting benefit in that trial. I don't know if 17 that answered all your questions, but that is the 18 19 general framework which we were operating under. 20 DR. JACOBY: Dr. Greenberger? DR. GREENBERGER: This has to do -- for Ms. 21

Zhou and Dr. Permutt on the sensitivity analysis.

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- 1 wanted to make sure I understood this. I am looking to
- 2 identify the very good responders such as the FEV1 gain
- 3 of over 100 mLs.
- And if I read that right, I do not see a
- 5 difference between those treated actively and those
- 6 not. Am I correct to assume that it's pretty much the
- 7 same in terms of identifying the very good FEV1
- 8 responders? Or is that an overinterpretation?
- 9 DR. PERMUTT: I read it slightly differently,
- 10 sir. In Study 301 -- if it's easy, can you get my
- 11 Slide 8 back? So if you consider an improvement of 100
- 12 milliliters or more to be very good responders -- the
- 13 one before that, please. Thank you.
- 14 There is a difference. About 35 percent of
- 15 people in the active group had such a response, and
- 16 only about 28 percent of people in the control group
- 17 had such a response. So our best estimate there of
- 18 number needed to treat is about 14, but there does
- 19 appear to be some difference in the number of
- 20 responders to active drug as compared to the number on
- 21 control.
- DR. GREENBERGER: And on the other study,

- 1 with 302, was it -- the lines were closer. Is that
- 2 correct?
- 3 DR. PERMUTT: They are about equally far
- 4 apart at that same point of 100. If you could show the
- 5 next slide, please. Yeah. So there is separation at
- 6 100, which I don't know if you can read the numbers,
- 7 but that's where the vertical line is. About the same,
- 8 a little more even, 45 or so to 35 or so.
- 9 DR. JACOBY: Yes, Dr. Wagener.
- 10 DR. WAGENER: This is related to the same
- 11 graphing technique. Did you look at either percent
- 12 change from baseline and categorize that way instead of
- 13 absolute numbers like 100, 150, 200? Or did you look
- 14 at percent predicted point change, either of those two
- 15 variables, in the similar type of graphing?
- 16 DR. PERMUTT: We did look at some of those
- 17 things. Feng, are we prepared to show any of them?
- 18 MS. ZHOU: In the briefing document, you can
- 19 find similar slides for the percent change and the
- 20 percent predicted change. In the briefing document
- 21 with similar graph separation.
- DR. WAGENER: And from your perspective, does

- 1 it show essentially the similar pattern? Or was there
- 2 anything that the pattern looked distinctly different?
- MS. ZHOU: It's similar in my point of view.
- 4 DR. JACOBY: Okay. We are going to break for
- 5 lunch. We will break for lunch for half an hour. Be
- 6 back at 12:36. You can leave your laptops here. If
- 7 you need any personal stuff, take that with you.
- 8 And I would remind the Committee no talking
- 9 about this among yourselves or with anyone else.
- 10 Thank you.
- 11 (A lunch recess was taken.)
- DR. JACOBY: Okay. We're back.
- Okay. We are going to have the open public
- 14 hearing speakers now.
- The FDA and the public believe in a
- 16 transparent process for information-gathering and
- 17 decision-making. To ensure such transparency at the
- 18 open public hearing session, the FDA believes that it
- 19 is important to understand the context of an
- 20 individual's presentation.
- 21 For this reason, FDA encourages you, the open
- 22 public hearing speaker, at the beginning of your

- 1 written or oral statement, to advise the Committee of
- 2 any financial relationship you may have with the
- 3 sponsor, its product, and, if known, its direct
- 4 competitors. For example, this financial information
- 5 may include the sponsor's payment of your travel,
- 6 lodging, or other expenses in connection with your
- 7 attendance at this meeting.
- 8 Likewise, the FDA encourages you at the
- 9 beginning of your statement to advise the Committee if
- 10 you do not have any such financial relationships. If
- 11 you choose not to address the issue of financial
- 12 relationships at the beginning of your statement, it
- 13 will not preclude you from speaking.
- 14 The FDA and this Committee place great
- 15 importance in the open public hearing process. The
- 16 insights and comments provided can help the agency and
- 17 this Committee in their consideration of the issues
- 18 before them. That said, in many instances and for many
- 19 topics, there will be a variety of opinions. One of
- 20 our goals today is for this open public hearing to be
- 21 conducted in a fair and open way where every
- 22 participant is listened to carefully and treated with

- 1 dignity, courtesy, and respect.
- 2 Therefore, please speak only when recognized
- 3 by the chair.
- 4 Thank you for your cooperation.
- 5 There will be five minutes allotted to each
- 6 open public hearing speaker. We have nine speakers.
- 7 And at the end of four minutes and 30 seconds, the
- 8 light will change color there.
- 9 So may I invite the first speaker, please?
- 10 Open Public Hearing
- MS. JENKINS: Are we on?
- DR. JACOBY: Yes.
- MS. JENKINS: Thank you. Thank you for this
- 14 opportunity to speak today. I am Carroll Jenkins,
- 15 executive director of Cystic Fibrosis Research,
- 16 Incorporated, or CFRI. We are a national 501(c)(3)
- 17 nonprofit dedicated to funding CF research and
- 18 supporting education awareness and advocacy for the
- 19 community.
- 20 I do have nothing to disclose, no financial
- 21 relationships to disclose.
- I am also the stepmother of Alex, who is 38

- 1 with CF. Several years ago, I celebrated the marriage
- 2 of my stepson on the California coast. Alex, then in
- 3 his early thirties with CF, left the wedding with his
- 4 new bride for their honeymoon in a remote area farther
- 5 north, and I returned to work in Mountain View.
- 6 Two nights later my husband called to say
- 7 that Alex was in the hospital. He had hemoptysis. His
- 8 lungs were bleeding. A few years prior, Alex had had a
- 9 lobectomy on his left lung. Surgery removed that part
- 10 of the lung because it was so diseased. And now his
- 11 situation on the edge of life, he had been helicoptered
- 12 from the coast to a hospital in Northern California,
- 13 and then boarded a second helicopter to be admitted to
- 14 a hospital more familiar with cystic fibrosis.
- 15 Thanks to the emergency teams, Alex made it
- 16 to the hospital on time, and today he continues
- 17 teaching percussion and performing in the Sacramento
- 18 area. He touches lives with his gift of drumming. He
- 19 also devotes four hours every day to breathing
- 20 treatments and health care. Four hours.
- 21 I share this with you today not because the
- 22 story is extreme, but because stories of crises are

- 1 part of life for many people with cystic fibrosis. The
- 2 median age of survival continues to be extended, but
- 3 the quality of life for children, teens, and adults is
- 4 greatly compromised by cystic fibrosis. And while no
- 5 two patients are alike, the vast majority suffer from
- 6 respiratory illness. So what do these patients have in
- 7 common?
- 8 Ideally, mucus is an agent that helps --
- 9 helps to get rid of pathogens in the system. We all
- 10 breathe. We inhale. And we take in the fresh air or
- 11 dust from construction sites or droplets in the air
- 12 from someone's congested cough in an elevator or spores
- 13 in a moldy bathroom. We all breathe this air, and for
- 14 most of us the mucus in our airways and lungs captures
- 15 these pathogens in the ciliary beat and move that mucus
- 16 out. We cough and swallow and clear our system.
- But for CF patients, the mucus is abnormal.
- 18 It is thick. Enter all that we breathe. And for those
- 19 with CF, much of it will stay, and the germs can grow
- 20 and colonize, causing a progressive decline in lung
- 21 function and premature mortality. Any drug that can
- 22 help a patient clear the mucus will bring a better

- 1 quality of life and a longer life to those with this
- 2 disease. Any way to even reduce the rate of decline in
- 3 pulmonary health, or stabilize health, is huge.
- 4 The cystic fibrosis community must have all
- 5 available treatments in their tool box. At CFRI, I
- 6 hear from people across the country about their
- 7 challenges and fears. CFers cough and cough, trying to
- 8 clear out their mucus, which they cannot do
- 9 effectively. They can even throw a rib in this
- 10 process.
- If they could clear their lungs, they would
- 12 be stronger and healthier. The spiral of decline in
- 13 lung health might stop.
- 14 This community looks to medical science for
- 15 help. Right now, there are few available products for
- 16 muciliary clearance. I am hopeful that new medications
- 17 which address lung clearance and respiratory health for
- 18 CF patients will be available soon. We need more
- 19 options now.
- 20 I thank you all for your role today in this
- 21 process.
- DR. JACOBY: Thank you, Ms. Jenkins. Our

- 1 next speaker, Emily Schaller.
- MS. SCHALLER: Hello. I'm Emily Schaller.
- 3 I'm from Detroit, Michigan, founder/president of the
- 4 Rock CF Foundation, and I have no financial issues to
- 5 disclose.
- 6 So I'm 30 years old. I'm going to be 31
- 7 actually in about 22 days, and I have cystic fibrosis.
- 8 I was diagnosed in 1983, and at the time they kind of
- 9 told my parents, "Look, really beautiful baby, really
- 10 cute, but she probably won't live long enough to
- 11 graduate from high school." In 1983, the treatments
- 12 for CF, my parents had digestive enzymes, vitamins, and
- 13 then they used to beat me or do chest physical therapy
- 14 where I would spend 20 to 30 minutes at a time several
- 15 times a day to clear that mucus out, right?
- 16 Fast forward, we are 2013 now, and I have not
- 17 only seen the new drugs that have been developed and
- 18 that are on the market, but I have lived them, and
- 19 that's why I'm alive today. These treatments are
- 20 incredible. They are life-changing. They are giving
- 21 me life. They are giving my friends with CF lives.
- 22 And they are giving parents, you know, a chance to

- 1 watch their kids grow up and graduate from high school
- 2 and get married.
- 3 So because of these new drugs, I have been
- 4 able to speak around the world, kids with CF, families
- 5 with CF, and I hear a lot of things. And one thing I
- 6 hear is the treatment burden. These drugs are great
- 7 that I take, but I spend hours a day with these drugs -
- 8 breathing treatments, chest therapies, 40 enzymes a
- 9 day. And these are just to keep me healthy each and
- 10 every single day, healthy but also healthy enough to
- 11 run half-marathons, cycle across states, and do half-
- 12 ironmans.
- And this is my airway clearance, right? I
- 14 use these drugs in combination with exercise as airway
- 15 clearance. It is awesome.
- And I couldn't be more excited. When I heard
- 17 about this drug and its potential and the device and
- 18 how it's delivered, super easy and it could save a lot
- 19 of time, which will allow patients with CF to do the
- 20 things they love, to run, to cycle, to go to college,
- 21 to get married, to be a father, and to live a life.
- 22 So this drug is going to hopefully change

- 1 lives, give patients more time to do these things that
- 2 they love, and reduce the burden of care for patients.
- 3 So thank you for letting me be here today,
- 4 and see you later.
- 5 DR. JACOBY: Thank you very much. Speaker
- 6 three?
- 7 DR. AITKEN: Good afternoon, everybody. I
- 8 think I have some slides of my own.
- 9 My name is Moira Aitken, and I was or am the
- 10 principal investigator of CF-302. But today I am here
- 11 under my -- for my patients' behalf and not on behalf
- 12 of Pharmaxis. So I have no conflict.
- 13 What I wish to do today was to stress the
- 14 burden of care that patients with cystic fibrosis have.
- 15 This is my own design input of just the pulmonary
- 16 medications that I ask my patients to fill out every
- 17 Monday morning. And on the yellow are nebulized
- 18 treatments that can be taken every day, and on the
- 19 white are nebulized antibiotics that are rotated every
- 20 month. And not clearly seen, but on the red arrows are
- 21 other very time- consuming medications, such as the
- 22 therapy vest and exercise, which we like in the Pacific

- 1 Northwest.
- 2 And so to emphasize this burden of care, I
- 3 thought I would give the example of three of my
- 4 patients, in addition to emphasizing that.
- 5 So pulmonary therapy, we are discussing. We
- 6 should really hear from the experts, so we have just
- 7 heard requires up to 180 minutes of pulmonary treatment
- 8 every day. And the nebulized therapies require time,
- 9 they require the equipment that has to keep working all
- 10 the time, and very importantly, as we just heard, an
- 11 electric supply. So that my patients, they go to
- 12 school, they go to college, they go to work, they try
- 13 to have a life. And it's difficult to transport that.
- And so this device that mannitol is delivered
- 15 in is very easy to transport, and I can't emphasize the
- 16 importance of that.
- And, finally, as a patient advocate, during
- 18 the open -- my patients were randomized, and I knew who
- 19 got what in the first six months. But during the open-
- 20 labeled phase of the study, all of the patients at my
- 21 site were clinically improved and taking mannitol.
- 22 And now I want to move on to actually my

- 1 patients give me -- gave me permission to try to bring
- 2 them into the room with me, so I would like to just
- 3 describe them a little bit.
- 4 This first lady is of very similar age to our
- 5 last speaker. She is 31 years old. Her lung function
- 6 is in the forties. She is infected with Pseudomonas
- 7 aeruginosa and with Staph aureus, and formerly,
- 8 interestingly, with mycobacterium avium complex that
- 9 was causing disease. And she has a large treatment
- 10 burden. She has hypertonic saline. She uses inhaled
- 11 aztreonam, alternating with inhaled cholistin. And her
- 12 burden of pulmonary care she estimates as being about
- 13 two hours and 30 minutes a day. And so this would cut
- 14 off half an hour and get her treatment time down to two
- 15 hours.
- The next patient, this is a very hardworking
- 17 guy. He is 49 years old. He works full-time, he has
- 18 two kids, and he has an elderly father. And his lung
- 19 function now is hitting that 40 percent predicted, and
- 20 he wants to spend time doing bowling. As you can see
- 21 below, his club fingers, he is demonstrating his
- 22 bowling.

- 1 He is infected with Achromobacter
- 2 xylosoxidans and Staph aureus. Because he can't use
- 3 the inhaled antibiotics for Pseudomonas aeruginosa, his
- 4 burden of time is only one hour and 30 minutes. And
- 5 what he said to me to tell you -- and I'm sorry I
- 6 didn't quote the first person -- he said that "Mannitol
- 7 brings stuff right out of my lungs. It has a similar
- 8 effect to hypertonic saline, but is much more
- 9 convenient as I can take it wherever I want, "including
- 10 going to his father's home to look after him.
- "Hopefully, the FDA will do the right thing."
- 12 His words, not mine.
- And the final person, this wonderful woman
- 14 playing her guitar with her mom there in the
- 15 background, she is a 32-year-old woman, FEV1 is about
- 16 40 percent. She has Pseudomonas aeruginosa and Staph
- 17 aureus. But interestingly, and very pertinent to the
- 18 discussion this morning, she has a real problem with
- 19 wheezing with inhaled antibiotics and other therapies.
- 20 And she is able to tolerate mannitol, and she said that
- 21 "Mannitol really got me cleared out."
- So I am running out of time. But, in

- 1 conclusion, there is an urgent -- and I would argue
- 2 unmet, by these three examples -- need to improve lung
- 3 function, but at the same time reduce the burden of
- 4 care that we ask our CF patients to do.
- 5 Thank you so much for your time and
- 6 attention.
- 7 DR. JACOBY: Thank you, Dr. Aitken. The
- 8 fourth speaker?
- 9 DR. BOYLE: That's me. Hello. My name is
- 10 Dr. Mike Boyle. I'm an associate professor of medicine
- 11 at Johns Hopkins right up the street here in Baltimore
- 12 and run the Johns Hopkins adult cystic fibrosis
- 13 program, which cares for about 300 adults with cystic
- 14 fibrosis.
- 15 And the reason I am actually here today is to
- 16 ask you to consider approving this drug and to talk a
- 17 little bit about what -- as a clinician, I think where
- 18 it could potentially have the most impact in terms of
- 19 therapy.
- You know, there has been a lot of good news
- 21 in terms of cystic fibrosis. We know there has been a
- 22 lot of improvements. More than 50 percent of our

- 1 patients now are adults. There is this longer life
- 2 span. A big part of that is because of being so
- 3 aggressive with new antibiotics. That has sort of been
- 4 the theme over and over again, new antibiotics, more
- 5 antibiotics, more inhaled antibiotics. That has been
- 6 very good.
- 7 I think one of the effects of that, though,
- 8 has been that there has been a little bit less
- 9 attention paid to the other key part of this cystic
- 10 fibrosis problem, and that is the airway clearance
- 11 part. And if you look at this, patients are having a
- 12 harder time having time to focus on the airway
- 13 clearance part, because of all of the time they are
- 14 spending with their inhaled antibiotics.
- We also know that there really haven't been a
- 16 bunch of new developments in this whole area of airway
- 17 clearance. Really, the main one in the last 10 years
- 18 has been hypertonic saline. If you look at the data
- 19 for hypertonic saline, it definitely has efficacy. It
- 20 improves FEV1. It decreases exacerbations.
- 21 But there is one big problem: it is our
- 22 patients' least favorite drug. How do we know this?

- 1 Because we have actually looked at refill data from our
- 2 patients at Johns Hopkins. We followed 100 patients
- 3 for over a year, and actually looked in real life how
- 4 often they were filling their medications based on, you
- 5 know, each category.
- 6 Hypertonic saline was actually filled less
- 7 than 40 percent of the time it was prescribed. So
- 8 while in the clinical trial the hypertonic saline may
- 9 look somewhat impressive, in real life we know that
- 10 there are some limitations, because patients hate to
- 11 take it. Why is that? It takes a long time. It takes
- 12 20 minutes. And also, for many patients they have a
- 13 hard time tolerating it. They say it's way too salty.
- 14 It burns. They don't like it.
- 15 So what we really need is something to allow
- 16 us to be able to address this airway clearance area
- 17 that gives us another option besides hypertonic saline.
- 18 This is where I think that the dry powder
- 19 mannitol has such potential to impact our therapy in
- 20 this group. We know that -- from an efficacy
- 21 standpoint that there are very -- it was very
- 22 comparable in many ways to hypertonic saline, but I

- 1 think the real-life efficacy is going to be even
- 2 better, because this is something that is going to be
- 3 faster, patients are going to be willing to take, and
- 4 so it is going to actually be a significant improvement
- 5 over hypertonic saline in many ways because of the
- 6 real-life experience.
- 7 The other part is the tolerability part. I
- 8 mean, we know that there is going to be a subset of
- 9 patients with any dry powder is going to have a hard
- 10 time tolerating that. Just like there is a subset of
- 11 patients with hypertonic saline who say, "I can't take
- 12 it."
- But that is not the group that we are going
- 14 to prescribe this to. We are going to identify that
- 15 group that has a hard time with the tolerance test or
- 16 has a cough. We are not going to treat that group. We
- 17 are going to treat the group that is obviously showing
- 18 benefit, and that group is going to be able to have
- 19 more time, be able to go ahead and do their medication.
- 20 The last part I would say is this -- this is
- 21 a drug which I think is in many ways empowering. I
- 22 know that is sort of a strong word, but I take care of

- 1 adults. They are trying to do a lot of other things
- 2 with their lives. They need some extra weapons to be
- 3 able to address airway clearance, not have it take up a
- 4 big chunk of their day.
- 5 This is a type of drug where if we can have
- 6 some efficacy, find the right subgroup, this is going
- 7 to empower a group to be able to go ahead and do all of
- 8 the other things in life they want to do.
- 9 So I guess, in summary, what I would say is I
- 10 would really ask that you would consider approving this
- 11 drug for two things. Rather than focusing just on the
- 12 subset of patients who are going to have some side
- 13 effects from cough that we expect, just like all of our
- 14 other CF medications, we are going to identify that
- 15 group and we are not going to treat them.
- 16 Please think about the subset that is really
- 17 going to have the dramatic efficacy from this, get back
- 18 some of their life in terms of time, and allow us to
- 19 address that airway clearance area, which right now is
- 20 often lacking.
- 21 So thank you very much for your
- 22 consideration.

- DR. JACOBY: Thank you very much, Dr. Boyle.
- 2 Speaker five, please?
- 3 DR. MARSHALL: Thank you for the opportunity
- 4 to address the Advisory Committee. I have no conflicts
- 5 of interest to divulge.
- I was the adult CF program director at the
- 7 University of Utah for 14 years before joining the
- 8 Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. I asked to speak today to
- 9 the Advisory Committee to make sure that you fully
- 10 appreciate the treatment burden, and so in many ways I
- 11 am going to reiterate what others have said.
- This is a young adult, you know, and behind
- 13 some of her treatments that she takes throughout the
- 14 day. And just imagine what -- how you would deal with
- 15 this treatment burden, or if this were your child how
- 16 he or she would deal with this treatment burden.
- 17 This slide is from a reference that was cited
- 18 earlier today, but actually shows the data from
- 19 Sawicki, et al., the study called Project on Adult CF
- 20 Care, PAC- CF, from Sawicki and colleagues. And it
- 21 quantifies the treatment burden for 204 adults across
- 22 10 care centers in the U.S. One hundred eight minutes

- 1 was the mean time spent on treatments, and you can see
- 2 the breakdown in the yellow bars, with 41 minutes
- 3 devoted to nebulized treatments.
- 4 This slide reminds us that efficacy, what we
- 5 have been talking about this morning, doesn't equal
- 6 effectiveness. And efficacy in clinical trials -- we
- 7 have talked about randomized clinical trials in the
- 8 real world where we are talking about clinical
- 9 effectiveness is impacted by adherence and subgroup
- 10 effects, the reality of day-to-day management, self-
- 11 management, and clinical care.
- 12 This slide from Eakin, et al. that was pushed
- 13 in The Journal of Cystic Fibrosis looks at adherence,
- 14 and it shows that adherence becomes problematic during
- 15 adolescence and emerging adulthood. This is data
- 16 derived from pharmacy refill data, and you can see in
- 17 those categories, particularly 19- to 25-year-old age
- 18 group, adherence really drops off.
- 19 Does adherence have an impact? Well, it's
- 20 clear, again from this same study, that poor adherence
- 21 is associated with more exacerbations. And as you have
- 22 heard today, exacerbations are important events in

- 1 cystic fibrosis. They are associated with morbidity,
- 2 mortality, decreased quality of life, and they are a
- 3 major driver of costs in health care.
- 4 This is data from our patient registry and
- 5 shows different birth cohorts with on the Y-axis
- 6 percent predicted FEV1, and age in years on the X-axis.
- 7 And what you can see here is even the youngest cohorts
- 8 -- look at that red line -- in adolescents their
- 9 pulmonary function starts to drop off. So this is a
- 10 critical time period in cystic fibrosis. It is also a
- 11 time period where exacerbations become more frequent.
- 12 So let's come back to the issue at hand
- 13 today, the mannitol. And I have put it here to
- 14 contrast with hypertonic saline in a class of drugs
- 15 that we call airway hydrators, or sometimes referred to
- 16 as airway hydrators. And of course I don't have time to
- 17 go through the details here, but in the review of this
- 18 Guidelines Committee that was referenced earlier this
- 19 morning, they came to the conclusion that hypertonic
- 20 saline and mannitol deserve the same recommendation, a
- 21 B recommendation, based on the certainty of the
- 22 evidence and net benefit.

- 1 You have heard about burden and convenience,
- 2 and they all weigh in favor of mannitol versus
- 3 hypertonic saline, which, as you have heard, must be
- 4 delivered by nebulizer. It takes up to 15 minutes or
- 5 so for treatment, as well as setup and breakdown time
- 6 to clean and disinfect the unit.
- 7 So when you factor this in, I think when you
- 8 start to look at things that are meaningful to
- 9 clinicians, adherence, and then clinical effectiveness,
- 10 you might speculate that mannitol might have an
- 11 advantage over hypertonic saline.
- So, in summary, as the Advisory Committee
- 13 considers mannitol inhalation powder, I strongly
- 14 encourage you to keep two things in mind -- the
- 15 treatment burden that people with CF face each and
- 16 every day, and the importance of the distinction
- 17 between efficacy and clinical effectiveness in the real
- 18 world of clinical management and self-management for
- 19 people with CF.
- Thank you.
- 21 DR. JACOBY: Thank you, Dr. Marshall.
- 22 Speaker number six, please?

- 1 MR. CAHILL: Good afternoon. My name is
- 2 Gerry Cahill, and I am no financial affiliation or
- 3 partnership with the drug company.
- 4 I am a volunteer at the Boomer Esiason
- 5 Foundation. I am 56 years old with cystic fibrosis,
- 6 currently on disability due to the progression of
- 7 cystic fibrosis. I gave up a great career that
- 8 hopefully I will go back to at some point very soon.
- 9 Over 30,000 people in the United States are
- 10 suffering from this awful disease. There is no cure.
- 11 The life expectancy is 38 years old. I have been one
- 12 of the fortunate ones that I am living and breathing at
- 13 age
- 14 56.
- Due to the progression of my disease and
- 16 being very resistant to most medications, I had a
- 17 double-lung transplant nine months ago. I had trouble
- 18 breathing, could not keep my lungs clear of mucus, my
- 19 lung function was down to 19 percent. I was basically
- 20 drowning in my own mucus.
- 21 My only hope for survival was a double-lung
- 22 transplant. Lung transplantation is not a cure with

- 1 CF, and you trade one disease for the other, and there
- 2 is a lot of complications. People with cystic fibrosis
- 3 need more drug therapies and options in their life.
- 4 This is why I am advocating for this drug.
- 5 This drugs help clear your lungs. The new drug is
- 6 simple and quick to use for people with CF, and they
- 7 can spend more time living their life and enjoying
- 8 versus spending more time on doing therapies.
- 9 Life with CF is cut very short for us. So if
- 10 you can spend less time on therapies and more time
- 11 living life, then that is a blessing. It is all about
- 12 time management with cystic fibrosis.
- 13 Although all of us want a cure for CF, most
- 14 young adults and adults that you speak to who have CF
- 15 would tell you they want more therapies and options as
- 16 we await a cure. This drug is another treatment option
- 17 for people with CF. People with CF need more options.
- 18 Thank you.
- 19 DR. JACOBY: Thank you, Mr. Cahill. Speaker
- 20 number seven, please.
- 21 DR. ULUER: Good afternoon. And thank you
- 22 for this opportunity to speak before the Committee

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- 1 today.
- 2 My name is Ahmet Uluer, and I am a
- 3 pulmonologist and director of the adult cystic fibrosis
- 4 program at Boston Children's and Brigham and Women's
- 5 Hospital where we care for over 600 patients. I also
- 6 participate on an advisory board, working on a quality
- 7 improvement program with Pharmaxis on educating on
- 8 airway clearance.
- 9 We have heard from our speakers today that
- 10 there is a relative, you know, paucity of treatments
- 11 available in CF, and, you know, every day, you know, we
- 12 look into our patients' eyes and we try to think of
- 13 what else we can -- you know, what else we have in our
- 14 armamentarium to use for our patients. And so, you
- 15 know, we -- and I feel that this medication adds to
- 16 that unmet need.
- 17 As Patrick Flume had talked about, and as
- 18 everybody else here had talked about, when -- you know,
- 19 we formulate a plan with our CF patient, but, you know,
- 20 after that clinic session is done, they enter the real
- 21 world and we don't know what our patients are going to
- 22 be -- you know, facing the real world and they make

- 1 decisions on what they are going to do.
- 2 Our adult patients, they are in school, they
- 3 are working, they have families, and, you know, who
- 4 among us have two or three hours a day to spend on
- 5 taking medications that will stabilize or -- you know,
- 6 stabilize the disease, let alone have to combat
- 7 exacerbation. And so most of the current interventions
- 8 are time-consuming, and respiratory equipment necessary
- 9 to deliver these therapies require proper use and
- 10 disinfection.
- 11 So despite our best hopes, when I have a
- 12 patient leave my clinic, they are faced with, you know,
- 13 a myriad of variables that make their decision,
- 14 depending on the weather, depending on if they are
- 15 going away on a trip, depending on, you know, just what
- 16 their day looks like, they are going to make decisions
- 17 on what treatments they are going to take.
- 18 And so if an option exists that might lead to
- 19 a more effective clinical outcome while decreasing
- 20 their treatment burden, we welcome that. We know that
- 21 poor adherence, as Bruce Marshall just showed, leads to
- 22 poor outcomes, and we know that when you are poorly

- 1 adherent - I'm sorry, that when you -- poor outcomes
- 2 -- when you are poorly adherent, it will lead to poor
- 3 outcomes.
- We also know that poor adherence comes from
- 5 complicated therapies. So it is difficult for us to
- 6 quantify, because we don't have any numbers that show
- 7 this, how the drug delivery system like bronchitol that
- 8 is simple and easy to use and store, you know, will
- 9 meet for improved adherence, but I think it's safe to
- 10 say will increase patient use of this class of therapy.
- 11 So based on our experience with other agents
- 12 like hypertonic saline, we think increased exposure to
- 13 this class of drug will help increase the chance for
- 14 improved outcomes. And we also know that this mode of
- 15 therapy has also demonstrated improved exercise
- 16 tolerance for our patients, so we believe promoting
- 17 exercise along, you know, with doing these therapies
- 18 can take -- can even provide a more profound benefit.
- 19 So I think it is reasonable to extrapolate
- 20 that an easy-to-use therapy that can accompany an
- 21 active child, adolescent, or adult throughout their day
- 22 will improve adherence among this population.

So appropriate attention is being given to 1 systemic therapies that directly impact a basic defect 2 in the pathogenesis of cystic fibrosis. And based on 3 our experience now with patients taking ivacaftor and CFTR modulators, we have noticed that it is still very 5 clear to us that patients are going to need these modes 7 of therapies. We have had patients experiment with stopping 8 their inhaled therapies, hypertonic saline or pulmozyme 10 and airway clearance while on ivacaftor, and we have 11 noticed that their lung function has dropped off. we know that this is going to be an important therapy 12 for even those patients, especially after they sustain 13 irreversible lung damage already. 14 So DPM, a therapy targeting the maintenance 15 16 of airway hydration, it is -- it has been shown to be effective in improving lung function and hopefully in 17 18 increasing exacerbation-free days. So adding a safe 19 second option for appropriate patients targeting fluid 20 balance, and one that will improve adherence and quality of life among patients, would be a welcome 21

addition and help increase our options for our families

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- 1 and patients.
- 2 So as a clinician/researcher in the CF
- 3 community, it will be up to us to pursue comparative
- 4 effectiveness studies with similar drugs such as
- 5 hypertonic saline. But the current option to hydrate
- 6 has been effective for many, while others are having
- 7 difficulty tolerating this. So I do feel that it is
- 8 going to be important for our patient to have multiple
- 9 choices.
- 10 Our center focused on quality improvement
- 11 projects, looking at airway hydration, and we know that
- 12 that improved our lung function numbers and how
- 13 patients are doing in our center. So we know that
- 14 having another drug in this category is going to be
- 15 important to pursue in quality improvement projects in
- 16 the future, and so we look forward to having multiple
- 17 options for our patients to do so, as many of our
- 18 patients have not been able to either tolerate
- 19 hypertonic saline or have the time necessary to
- 20 administer it during their busy schedules.
- 21 Thank you.
- 22 DR. JACOBY: Thank you, Dr. Uluer. Speaker

- 1 number eight, please?
- 2 MR. SHARPE: Good afternoon, ladies and
- 3 gentlemen. My name is Ronnie Sharpe. I am the chief
- 4 community servant at Cystic Life. And Pharmaxis will
- 5 be providing an unrestricted grant to Cystic Life to
- 6 continue some of our programming.
- 7 First, I just want to thank you for letting
- 8 me be a part of this process. I'm a 32-year-old CF
- 9 patient. I have come here today to tell you about my
- 10 life and what you can do to improve it. I am a
- 11 University of Arizona alum. I'm a native of Arizona.
- 12 I'm a brother. I'm a Christ follower. I'm a son. I'm
- 13 a friend. I'm a sports fanatic. I'm an exercise
- 14 enthusiast. I'm a business owner. I'm a cystic
- 15 fibrosis patient. And, most importantly, I'm a husband
- 16 and a father.
- I want to stress just how fortunate I feel to
- 18 be able to wear all of these titles. I have an
- 19 incredible life, and I am blessed to be exactly where I
- 20 am today, as the future didn't always look so bright
- 21 for me when I was born with cystic fibrosis in 1980.
- 22 Cystic fibrosis, the disease, and how it

- 1 affects the body hasn't changed over the years. It is
- 2 still the same genetic mutations affecting the way our
- 3 cells operate within our body. What has changed,
- 4 however, is the medications and the treatment options
- 5 available to us over the years.
- I am here today thanks to people like you
- 7 helping to usher in new therapies to this community.
- 8 It is these medications and medical advances that allow
- 9 me to be here today, decades older than the expiration
- 10 date given to my mom when I was born.
- It is these options that have allowed me to
- 12 say "I do" to my wife, and watch my daughter be born.
- With that said, however, we still don't have
- 14 enough options, and current medications aren't enough.
- 15 We are certainly leaps and bounds ahead of where we
- 16 have been, but as a community we need more. What works
- 17 for some may not work for others, and that is why
- 18 options are so important. It is so important that we
- 19 can try a variety of medications to see what our body
- 20 responds to, so if we have the opportunity -- so we
- 21 have the opportunity to put ourselves in the best
- 22 position to succeed and take care of ourselves as best

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- 1 we can.
- 2 As the options available to us have grown,
- 3 our life expectancy has increased, our health has
- 4 improved, and our quality of life has gotten better.
- 5 If you ask me, quality of life is one of the biggest
- 6 improvements that we can ask for. Added years are
- 7 important, but if you cannot live and live well, then I
- 8 feel there is little point to increasing life
- 9 expectancy, which brings me to something else that you
- 10 can bless me with today, and that is more time.
- I know many, if not all of you, cannot
- 12 understand the treatment burden that CF puts on my
- 13 life. But all of you can understand time, because we
- 14 all value it and it is worth just as much to you as it
- 15 is to me. Like all of you, I have a lot of things I
- 16 want to do and need to do during the day. I need to
- 17 succeed at my job. I need to do work around the house.
- 18 I want to spend time doing silly things, like singing
- 19 the Hokey Pokey Dance with my daughter. I want to
- 20 relax in the evenings, to watch TV on the couch with my
- 21 wife.
- But there is one aspect of my days that I

- 1 have to fit all of that around that many of you will
- 2 never have to accommodate, and that is my daily care
- 3 routine for my cystic fibrosis. My treatment routine
- 4 currently dictates my days, my schedule, my routine,
- 5 and, in many ways, my life.
- 6 I actually ran a stopwatch to give you an
- 7 idea of what I'm talking about. On Monday, I spent
- 8 three hours, 12 minutes, and 56 seconds doing cystic
- 9 fibrosis- related treatments and exercise. That is an
- 10 average day for me. To give you an idea, that is over
- 11 22 hours a week, over 96 hours a month, and over 1,150
- 12 hours per year. I spend 48 full days a year doing CF-
- 13 related treatments and exercise, and that doesn't
- 14 include my multiple hospitalizations each year.
- Any treatment I can take that isn't a huge
- 16 burden on my time really excites me. Any potential
- 17 treatment option that I can take that can potentially
- 18 give me time back excites me even more.
- 19 So today I am asking you for two things. I
- 20 am asking you to provide me and my friends with more
- 21 options and more time. A positive recommendation for
- 22 bronchitol will do both.

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- 1 Thank you.
- DR. JACOBY: Thank you, Mr. Sharpe. And our
- 3 final speaker, speaker number nine?
- 4 MS. GRUMBINE: Thank you for giving me the
- 5 chance to share my experience with inhaled mannitol.
- 6 My name is Emily Grumbine, and I'm a 32-year-old
- 7 runner, a singer, a counselor, a tennis player, a wife,
- 8 and a volunteer living with cystic fibrosis.
- 9 I am able to do the things I love to do, and
- 10 I am able to function on a daily basis because I
- 11 currently take inhaled mannitol through the
- 12 Compassionate Use Program.
- I was diagnosed with CF at three days old.
- 14 Over the years, cystic fibrosis has caused many health
- 15 complications for me, including CF-related diabetes,
- 16 elevated liver enzymes, and issues with my sinuses.
- 17 But my lung function, like most CF patients, continues
- 18 to be my biggest concern.
- 19 A significant amount of time each day must be
- 20 spent clearing out the thick mucus that clogs my lungs,
- 21 three hours a day of nebulizers, medicines, and chest
- 22 therapy, plus one hour of exercise. That can be very

- 1 overwhelming at times.
- 2 I religiously do everything in my power to
- 3 maintain my health. But despite my efforts, this
- 4 disease progresses.
- In 2009, my CF specialist at Maine Medical
- 6 Center, Jonathan Zuckerman, told me about the
- 7 opportunity to participate in a clinical trial for
- 8 inhaled mannitol. He explained it was a dry powder
- 9 that, when inhaled, draws water to the airways, making
- 10 it easier to cough up the thick mucus in my lungs. I
- 11 thought to myself, this sounds awesome, and I jumped at
- 12 the opportunity.
- When I reached the open-label part of the
- 14 trial, I was blown away with how much mucus I was able
- 15 to cough up after each of the 10 capsules inhaled. It
- 16 made me cough and the cough was immediately productive.
- 17 After a treatment, I could actually take a deep breath
- 18 without all the crackling, and my running started to
- 19 improve. I was able to run a little bit faster, a
- 20 little bit longer, as the weeks went on, and actually
- 21 enjoy it.
- My energy was great throughout the day, and I

- 1 didn't feel such a burden breathing. Those 10 little
- 2 white capsules changed my life so drastically. Ten
- 3 capsules inhaled twice a day, three minutes twice a
- 4 day. That's the shortest treatment I have ever done.
- 5 Ten to 20 minutes is what I am used to with hypertonic
- 6 saline.
- 7 I actually felt like I was making progress
- 8 fighting this disease. I had such a positive life-
- 9 changing experience with inhaled mannitol that after
- 10 talking with my doctor we decided to pursue inhaled
- 11 mannitol through Compassionate Use. It took quite a
- 12 while but I was finally approved to receive inhaled
- 13 mannitol through Compassionate Use, and I took my first
- 14 dose on February 9, 2012. It was one of the happiest
- 15 days of my life.
- I had been taking hypertonic saline, an
- 17 alternative treatment, to hydrate the airways, and my
- 18 health suffered during that time. My lung function
- 19 declined. I was much more congested all day, even
- 20 after treatments and exercising. My cough was less
- 21 productive and my energy just wasn't there. Even doing
- 22 the most basic physical activities felt like such a

- 1 burden on my breathing.
- This past year has been stable health-wise.
- 3 I believe inhaled mannitol has a lot to do with that.
- 4 It has cut my treatment down by almost 30 minutes a
- 5 day. It has so much -- it is so much more effective
- 6 than hypertonic saline was for me. Because of inhaled
- 7 mannitol, with my 43 percent lung function, I was able
- 8 to run the Beach to Beacon 10K in August. Because of
- 9 inhaled mannitol, I am able to sing in church choir
- 10 every week without having a coughing attack. Because
- 11 of inhaled mannitol, I have more energy throughout the
- 12 day and I am able to function.
- Because of inhaled mannitol, I have stable
- 14 lung function despite carrying the bacteria
- 15 Burkholderia cepacia. Cepacia is resistant to most
- 16 antibiotics, and often leads to an accelerated decline
- 17 in lung function for cystic fibrosis patients. I have
- 18 been able to maintain my lung function this past year.
- I realize that this drug still treats the
- 20 symptom of a disease, as do all of the other
- 21 medications I take, but for most cystic fibrosis
- 22 patients we rely on drugs that treat symptoms and help

- 1 us maintain our health until the day we have a drug
- 2 that treats the underlying cause of CF.
- To my knowledge, I have not experienced any
- 4 negative side effects from inhaled mannitol. It is
- 5 convenient, extremely effective, and time-efficient,
- 6 and I could not imagine my life without it at this
- 7 point. I want this drug FDA approved, so that I can
- 8 continue to use it, and so that thousands of other
- 9 cystic fibrosis patients here in the U.S. can as well.
- 10 Thank you.
- DR. JACOBY: Thank you, Ms. Grumbine. And
- 12 thank you to all of the speakers. We appreciate your
- 13 presence here today.
- 14 That concludes the open public hearing
- 15 portion of this meeting, and we will no longer take
- 16 comments from the audience.
- 17 The Committee will now turn its attention to
- 18 address the task at hand, the careful consideration of
- 19 the data before the Committee as well as the public
- 20 comments.
- 21 Before we go on with the discussion portion,
- 22 the sponsor had answers to several questions that they

- 1 needed to gather data on, as well as at least one that
- 2 I think I cut them off on earlier. So, Dr. Fox?
- 3 DR. FOX: Thank you very much. If we start
- 4 with AA-2, please.
- 5 This is related to a slide I showed earlier
- 6 showing change from baseline at week six related to
- 7 week 26 and showing how they closely relate. What I
- 8 wasn't able to show you at the time -- if I can have
- 9 RS-23, please -- was the sensitivity and specificity of
- 10 that. And I think this may be very useful for you in
- 11 terms of understanding whether or not an opinion can be
- 12 made at week six in terms of tolerability or not.
- If we go to the top line of this table, we
- 14 can see the proportion of patients who had any
- 15 improvement at all, which was about 60 percent, and we
- 16 can see in terms of the specificity and sensitivity of
- 17 how many of those people continued to respond at --
- 18 over the 26-week period.
- 19 So, conversely, we can be thinking about
- 20 patients who are not having any improvement and whether
- 21 there is a reasonable time point then to make an
- 22 opinion after an early exposure.

The next question I wanted to cover relates 1 to AA-4, please, which was about the mannitol tolerance 2 test. I have managed to find data from Study 302 which 3 looks at the cumulative dose of the MTT, which of course goes up to 400 milligrams. And this is looking 5 at the mean drops in FEV1 based on those cumulative doses, and it also provides the medians and ranges as well. So hopefully this provides you the information that you need to see that the mean change that -- at 10 the top end is about -- a drop in about 10 percent. 11 The last question that I wanted to cover, 12 unfortunately, I wasn't able to get a slide in time which related to the -- how the screening values 13 related to baseline values in children and adolescents 14 in 302. I didn't get a chance to load the database 15 16 off, but what I can show you is that the -- that if you plot those out they very closely relate to each other. 17 It didn't look like there was any signal outside that 18 19 would be explaining that, so there was no gross signal 20 of difference between sensitivity and specificity. it does look like that the regional change was a bigger 21 22 driver rather than age specific one.

And the last point I would just like to point 1 out as you go into questions is that we do have three experts here that have spent all their working lives 3 dealing with cystic fibrosis, as I know a lot of you have, too. So do please use their resource as well as 5 you go through your questions. 7 Thank you. DR. JACOBY: Thank you very much, Dr. Fox. We will now begin the panel discussion 10 portion of the meeting. Although this portion is open 11 to public observers, public attendees may not participate except at the specific request of the 12 13 panel. We will now have the charge to the Committee 14 15 presented by Dr. Anthony Durmowicz. 16 Charge to the Committee DR. DURMOWICZ: Hello, again. I am going to 17 read the charge to the committee now, and I'm going to 18 also read through the discussion points and questions, 19 20 and then I'm going to hand the podium back to Dr. Jacoby to moderate the discussion and then the voting. 21 22 It seems like you already probably understand

- 1 this, but I just wanted to put up the topic for
- 2 discussion -- slide, once again, to look at it at a
- 3 high level. From the efficacy standpoint, the big
- 4 question for us from a regulatory standpoint is, is
- 5 there substantial evidence of efficacy?
- 6 For this particular program, there is
- 7 confounding issues with the impact of missing data,
- 8 there is the multiple sensitivity analysis, and there
- 9 is the question of whether the effect is clinically
- 10 meaningful. We have heard a lot about safety, including
- 11 hemoptysis and tolerability issues. That is an
- 12 important safety discussion.
- 13 Safety and efficacy are both discussions in
- 14 the pediatric subpopulation. Is there sufficient data
- 15 to provide enough evidence that we are comfortable that
- 16 there is appropriate efficacy and acceptable safety in
- 17 the pediatric population?
- 18 I think it is important for the Committee and
- 19 people in the room to understand the regulatory
- 20 framework under which we operate in determining
- 21 efficacy. The Code of Federal Regulations, the CFR,
- 22 states that we must demonstrate, or it must be

- 1 demonstrated, that there is substantial evidence
- 2 consisting of adequate and well- controlled
- 3 investigations.
- 4 This is that the drug product will have the
- 5 effect it purports, or is represented to have, under
- 6 the conditions of use of -- under conditions of use
- 7 prescribed, recommended, or suggested in the proposed
- 8 labeling.
- 9 Well, that is a little bit regulatory-ese, I
- 10 will admit, being a regulatory guy myself. But what
- 11 does that mean as we move forward? Typically, it has
- 12 meant that you need replicate, well-designed, well-
- 13 controlled studies demonstrating an efficacy finding.
- 14 This means two studies studying an appropriate
- 15 endpoint, both winning statistically and clinically.
- The endpoint FEV1, as a surrogate endpoint
- 17 for improved lung function, fits into this category.
- 18 One positive study does not meet that bar. However,
- 19 there are times when one study may suffice. An
- 20 excellent design study showing highly reliable,
- 21 statistically strong evidence on an important clinical
- 22 benefit such as survival, may suffice.

Also, a single study itself that demonstrates 1 statistically and clinically meaningful benefit in 2 multiple, unrelated endpoints can also suffice. As an 3 example of this -- and the drug has been brought up several times today by both the -- both sides of the 5 aisle, if you will -- the drug ivacaftor, which treats the entire disease cystic fibrosis and not just one 7 aspect of it, that was -- the approval of that drug was based primarily on one adequate well-controlled trial 10 in adults and adolescents. 11 And that trial showed statistically strong and clinically meaningful benefit in multiple 12 endpoints. That included FEV1, that included 13 exacerbations, that included weight gain. So that 14 would be an example of the type of study you would need 15 16 to fit into that category. With regard to safety and the safety 17 standard, again, in the CFR, you would not approve a 18 19 drug if it did not include adequate tests to show 20 whether or not the drug is safe for use under the conditions prescribed or that the results of the tests 21

that you did do showed that the drug is unsafe for use

- 1 under the conditions prescribed, recommended, or
- 2 suggested, or if the results do not show that the drug
- 3 product is safe under those conditions.
- 4 The fourth reason would be that there is
- 5 insufficient information about the drug to determine
- 6 whether the product is safe for use. Either of those
- 7 issues would not meet the safety standard.
- 8 Now, finally, let's just return to the
- 9 risk/benefit determination and take it in context. It
- 10 will be taken in the context that CF is a serious fatal
- 11 disease, and we have to think about, what are the
- 12 acceptable risks for a benefit? However, in trying to
- 13 decide to approve or not approve the drug, we still
- 14 need to meet that substantial evidence of efficacy bar
- 15 from a regulatory perspective. And that evidence is
- 16 the same for all drugs, including those for orphan
- 17 diseases.
- 18 Orphan diseases still need an evaluable
- 19 safety population as well. It might not be as big as
- 20 you would get in a COPD population, like we had in the
- 21 Advisory Committee yesterday, which numbers in the
- 22 thousands, but it still needs to be adequate.

- 1 That being said, I am going to read through
- 2 the questions and discussion points that the Committee
- 3 is going to be charged to discuss and vote on. And
- 4 following that, I will give the chair to Dr. Jacoby
- 5 once again.
- 6 The first question -- there are three
- 7 discussion questions and three voting questions. The
- 8 first question is basically to discuss the evidence to
- 9 support the efficacy of dry powdered mannitol at a dose
- 10 of 400 milligrams twice daily in improving pulmonary
- 11 function in patients six years and older with cystic
- 12 fibrosis.
- The second discussion question is simply to
- 14 discuss the overall safety profile of dry powdered
- 15 mannitol. The third question would be to discuss the
- 16 support for efficacy and safety of DPM, dry powdered
- 17 mannitol, in children and adolescents. So it's a
- 18 specific pediatric discussion point.
- 19 Going to the voting questions, we will first
- 20 vote on efficacy. Considering the totality of the
- 21 data, is there substantial evidence of efficacy as
- 22 defined for dry powdered mannitol at a dose of 400

- 1 milligrams twice daily for improvement of pulmonary
- 2 function in patients six years and older with cystic
- 3 fibrosis? If not, what further efficacy do you
- 4 recommend?
- 5 Question 5 is the safety question. Is the
- 6 safety profile of dry powdered mannitol for the
- 7 maintenance/treatment of patients with cystic fibrosis
- 8 sufficient to support approval? Again, if not, what
- 9 further safety data should be obtained?
- 10 And, finally, we take both safety and
- 11 efficacy into consideration in what essentially is a
- 12 risk/benefit determination. And do the efficacy and
- 13 safety data provide substantial evidence to support the
- 14 approval of dry powdered mannitol at a dose of 400
- 15 milligrams twice daily for the management of cystic
- 16 fibrosis in patients age six years and older to improve
- 17 pulmonary function? That basically is the asked-for
- 18 indication by the applicant, Pharmaxis. And, if not,
- 19 what further data should be obtained?
- 20 So with that, I will hand the chair --
- DR. JACOBY: Thank you, Dr. Durmowicz.
- DR. DURMOWICZ: -- continued discussion.

- 1 Questions to the Committee and Committee Discussion
- DR. JACOBY: Okay. Let's start with the
- 3 first discussion question, which is to discuss the
- 4 evidence to support the efficacy of dried powder
- 5 mannitol at a dose of 400 milligrams twice daily
- 6 improving pulmonary function in patients six years and
- 7 older with CF.
- 8 Okay. I take back everything I said about
- 9 being concise and not talking. Now is the time to
- 10 discuss this. Dr. Wagener?
- DR. WAGENER: I'll throw my name tag on the
- 12 floor here. I'll start the discussion. I actually
- 13 would prefer this question if we separated the "above
- 14 18" and "below 18." But since that is not the way the
- 15 system works, having taken care of over 1,000 CF
- 16 patients in my career, I can certainly feel for the
- 17 comments that every patient and advocate has made.
- 18 At the same time, I think historically
- 19 therapies approved by the FDA are approved based on
- 20 statistical evidence of efficacy. And if we follow
- 21 that pure thought, in this case there isn't strong
- 22 statistical evidence by classic statistics that would

- 1 meet those guidelines and that was shown.
- 2 However, I would point out there may be a
- 3 couple of things a little different with this drug.
- 4 One is that it actually -- there is no FDA approved
- 5 drug that works in this fashion. There was the idea
- 6 this is to improve mucociliary clearance, and there is
- 7 no other FDA approved drug that does that. So this
- 8 would be really first drug in class.
- 9 And I guess my question is whether or not
- 10 that in some ways may change what you defined as
- 11 statistically proven efficacy.
- 12 The second thing is -- people have pointed
- 13 out very clearly is that this drug has some unique
- 14 properties in its evaluation in that it creates a side
- 15 effect that patients will tend to discontinue the drug
- 16 because of that side effect. We are assuming that this
- 17 10 percent plus dropout rate early on is because of
- 18 some side effect that the patient is experiencing.
- 19 Now, we may not have detected exactly what
- 20 that was, but they did and they stopped taking the
- 21 drug.
- In the case of adults, I don't find that as a

- 1 big problem, because if I give a medication to an adult
- 2 that they find they don't want to take, they simply
- 3 stop taking it. In children, that's not always true,
- 4 and that's why I think the age separation may be very
- 5 important.
- 6 But in this situation perhaps that evaluation
- 7 of just the patients who stayed in the trial does carry
- 8 value, because those are patients who say, "I find
- 9 benefit." And we may not be measuring the right
- 10 outcome. It may not be FEV1. It may not be
- 11 exacerbations. But it may be something else that -- or
- 12 it may not be qualify of life, because there was no
- 13 evidence there of efficacy. But it may be something
- 14 else that they perceive benefits them, and that's why
- 15 they stay on the drug and they continue it even through
- 16 the open label.
- So having made that big prelude, what I would
- 18 say is I think there is evidence of efficacy. It may
- 19 not be based on some of the statistics that we have
- 20 used historically, but in a situation where you have a
- 21 life- threatening disease with no other drug in class,
- 22 I would be willing, as a member of this Committee, to

- 1 stretch the definition of efficacy beyond the
- 2 straightforward, simple, purest statistics, which I
- 3 greatly admire, but I think we have to go one step
- 4 further, and in this case I feel it should be shown --
- 5 or accepted as efficacious, at least in the adult.
- 6 DR. JACOBY: Thank you. Mr. Mullins?
- 7 MR. MULLINS: I would like to take this from
- 8 the standpoint of public health and the way the public
- 9 interprets our review of the evidence and their
- 10 perceptions of efficacy. And it is a very sensitive
- 11 issue when you begin to discuss a population that is so
- 12 passionate about hope, and so I am very careful to look
- 13 at their emotional state, to look at their desire for a
- 14 solution, on both sides of the issue, their desire for
- 15 some type of medical therapy that addresses their
- 16 serious concerns.
- But the question is, what do they deserve?
- 18 Do they deserve something? Or do they deserve
- 19 something safe and efficacious? And that is what we're
- 20 talking about today. And I have some serious concerns,
- 21 as well as my peers here at the table, about efficacy
- 22 and safety.

- 1 The only challenge is, once a drug is -- a
- 2 therapy is approved, and it has a high level of
- 3 toxicity, and there are some indications of
- 4 intolerance, and there are some indications of serious
- 5 concerns and exacerbations and adverse effects, once
- 6 it's out there then it's out there. So those are my
- 7 concerns, and I certainly can relate to what Dr.
- 8 Wagener is saying.
- 9 But having dealt with public health issues
- 10 around the nation, the public believes that when we say
- 11 "safe," they believe safe. And so we're talking about
- 12 children, we're talking about people that somewhat feel
- 13 hopeless. And to play on their emotions, I am very
- 14 careful with that. So I think -- I know the decisions
- 15 that we make here should take into account sometimes a
- 16 group of patients that feel almost desperate.
- So do you take that sense of desperation, and
- 18 do you take it to a higher level and produce and give
- 19 them something that is -- that meets all of their
- 20 desires, their wants, and is medically sound? And that
- 21 is the challenge of our decision, and I believe that
- 22 saying that we are almost there, or, yes, later, but no

- 1 right now, is something we consider.
- 2 But I will tell you that I like the direction
- 3 that we are heading. I like this desire for efficacy.
- 4 But to make a decision on desperation just to do
- 5 something, I tell you, we've done that in the past, and
- 6 you can look at the history of decisions that have been
- 7 made and sometimes that can come back to haunt you.
- 8 So I would tell you, just when you look at it
- 9 from a public health perspective, that the patients are
- 10 almost hopeless sometimes, but to take that sense of
- 11 desperation and play upon that, I would say to you that
- 12 just -- I would say to you that we have a significant
- 13 responsibility. And I would -- rather than lower the
- 14 bar, I would say raise the bar, because once it is out
- 15 there, they believe that it is totally safe. They feel
- 16 like that especially when parents are exposing this
- 17 particular therapy to the children.
- 18 Thank you.
- DR. JACOBY: Dr. Greenberger?
- 20 DR. GREENBERGER: In the analysis, I'm going
- 21 to say that I think it might be time for the agency and
- 22 industry to take a look at the 1998 standards that we

- 1 just saw, and perhaps bring them up to date. And I'm
- 2 going to declare an academic bias, so to speak, because
- 3 I'm the senior author of a paper in The Journal of
- 4 Allergy and Clinical Immunology last year describing
- 5 what are called "endotypes of disease" regarding
- 6 asthma.
- 7 In other words, a specific subtype with
- 8 specific pathophysiology and presumably or possibly
- 9 specific treatment responses. In other words,
- 10 identifying the really good responders to the
- 11 medications and that would help identify the subtypes
- 12 of patients with certain diseases, such as in cystic
- 13 fibrosis, who do in fact get the better responses. And
- 14 that would allow a pathway forward for approving a
- 15 product that might not stand up to the 1998
- 16 requirements.
- DR. JACOBY: Mr. Hawkins?
- 18 MR. HAWKINS: Thank you. I'm here as a CF
- 19 patient, not a scientist. So I'm going to focus my
- 20 responses on that aspect.
- One thing about CF patients, and especially
- 22 those of us who are adults and have been living with

- 1 this all our lives, we have come to see that not all CF
- 2 therapies affect all of us the same way. And I believe
- 3 all of us know that there are going to be CF drugs
- 4 developed and approved by the FDA that aren't going to
- 5 help us the same way they do other people with CF.
- 6 So part of living with cystic fibrosis is
- 7 knowing that not every drug that is approved by the FDA
- 8 is going to be appropriate for each person with CF.
- 9 But also, we see that some of the drugs that may not be
- 10 appropriate for our friend help us a great deal. So to
- 11 find a drug that is appropriate or beneficial to every
- 12 person with CF, I don't think we have found that yet.
- 13 And we can't rule out all drugs just because we can't
- 14 say that they don't help anybody or they don't help
- 15 enough people. That's just the way I look at it.
- 16 Thank you.
- DR. JACOBY: Dr. Parad?
- 18 DR. PARAD: I'm going to look to you for a
- 19 little guidance, this being my first panel experience,
- 20 regarding the slide Dr. Durmowicz showed talking about
- 21 efficacy standard and proposed labeling, which is not
- 22 one of our questions. But it was a statement that

- 1 ended "under the conditions of use prescribed,
- 2 recommended, or suggested in the proposed labeling."
- 3 So, you know, my take at the moment is along
- 4 the lines of Mr. Hawkins. I get the sense that there
- 5 is probably some efficacy for some patients. It may
- 6 not be a huge amount of efficacy, but there is probably
- 7 some for some people and there is room to learn about
- 8 how to figure out who those people are.
- 9 Safety is, of course, extremely important,
- 10 and I think we will talk about that in the next
- 11 question. But what I don't have a good sense for, if
- 12 what Mr. Mullins says is true, which I believe it
- 13 probably is, is that once it is out there, it is out
- 14 there.
- 15 How does this labeling control that? What do
- 16 we know from what has been done so far to put in the
- 17 labeling that might channel the use of the drug in a
- 18 way that would keep it to people who were studied and
- 19 not bump another drug out of the way that might
- 20 actually be more efficacious, even though it takes
- 21 longer to use.
- 22 And so are labeling considerations -- is

- 1 there anything that we can make in our decision that
- 2 would force the labeling to go a certain way?
- 3 DR. JACOBY: Dr. Durmowicz, could I ask you
- 4 to comment on that, please?
- 5 DR. DURMOWICZ: Sure. I will try to help you
- 6 out with that. When we talk about under the conditions
- 7 of use and labeled use with regard to the slide that I
- 8 showed, the first level that you are probably asking
- 9 about is the intended use is the indication, which is
- 10 CF patients six and older to improve pulmonary
- 11 function.
- 12 So even if you think that it is good for
- 13 adults and bad for children, that's the indication that
- 14 is proposed for use right now. So there is a caveat
- 15 there that you can say, "I think it's okay for children
- 16 and not for adults," or "I think it's okay for adults
- 17 and not for children."
- 18 With regard to the other conditions of use in
- 19 labeling, as I'm sure you're familiar because I know
- 20 you read every label of every drug you have ever had --
- 21 (Laughter.) -- that there are warnings and precautions,
- 22 there are contraindications, there are all of these

- 1 conditions of use as well. And they can be modified
- 2 and made more appropriate in which a drug would be more
- 3 acceptable to use in a certain population. We, on
- 4 purpose, did not want to go into labeling too much
- 5 today, other than to say that if you have a
- 6 recommendation which something should be put into the
- 7 labeling, that would be important for us to hear,
- 8 because then you are starting to talk about labeling
- 9 before you even talk about whether the drug is safe or
- 10 effective.
- 11 So in that context, I think that the first
- 12 bar is the indication, and then if you think it could
- 13 be used safety by having certain limitations of use or
- 14 certain contraindications, or something like that, then
- 15 I think that we would like to hear from you regarding
- 16 that.
- I probably didn't answer you very well, but I
- 18 was trying.
- 19 DR. CHOWDHURY: I'm Dr. Chowdhury, and maybe
- 20 I can just add some thoughts here to your question, and
- 21 maybe also touch on a bit on the evidence of efficacy
- 22 that you are probably thinking about as you are

- 1 considering this discussion point or question.
- 2 The drug is proposed, as Dr. Durmowicz
- 3 mentioned, for patients with cystic fibrosis six and
- 4 older for improvement of lung function. And that is
- 5 what you are really considering as the conditions of
- 6 use. There is no specific limitations or restrictions
- 7 up there.
- 8 So if you have any thoughts after you vote,
- 9 you can let us know, and we can work with the company
- 10 around those conditions. So that's what -- as it goes,
- 11 and I'll pause because we have a question here.
- DR. PARAD: But the indication of improving
- 13 lung function, is that restricted by the enrollment
- 14 criteria for these trials, to say that your FEV1 is
- 15 less than 90 percent or --
- DR. CHOWDHURY: No, it is not.
- DR. PARAD: No.
- 18 DR. CHOWDHURY: This really is for -- I'll
- 19 talk exactly paraphrasing what management of cystic
- 20 fibrosis in patients ages six and older for improvement
- 21 of lung function, not otherwise subspecified with any
- 22 criterias of pulmonary functions or anything. So that

- 1 is really what you are thinking about.
- 2 And as you are thinking about it, I just want
- 3 to go back and touch on a bit on the substantial
- 4 evidence, because this is really a very tricky point.
- 5 And part of what we're asking you is you've heard
- 6 everything from us, from the company, and from the
- 7 public, and have your own thoughts about it. So put
- 8 this all together and give your best thought and
- 9 recommendation to us.
- 10 And what we are laying out to you as we go
- 11 back and make a decision, what we are looking for, what
- 12 we are looking at, and we are sharing that with you
- 13 what Dr. Durmowicz laid out in the slide of substantial
- 14 evidence, per the Code of Federal Regulations, per our
- 15 guidance.
- And the point here is we need to look at
- 17 substantial evidence, meaning two trials in most
- 18 situations, but we couldn't find it. The point was
- 19 raised first drug in the class. Well, this may be of
- 20 an indication life-threatening diseases. They are all
- 21 important, and we are all looking into consideration.
- 22 And we work with the company in helping develop such

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1 drugs.
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- 2 For example, foster development, priority
- 3 reviews, all we are given here. But going back and
- 4 evaluating for evidence of efficacy, we go back to a
- 5 substantial standard. So it really stands up to that.
- 6 In terms of life-threatening disease, it's
- 7 important to take into consideration, is it treating a
- 8 life-threatening aspect of the disease? If that is the
- 9 case, that becomes important. We are looking at a
- 10 surrogate, which FEV1 is, and you think about, is it
- 11 all that I care about, improvement of FEV1? Do I have
- 12 confidence that it will improve FEV1? And if it does,
- 13 then maybe other endpoints will improve. Generally,
- 14 two trials is what we are looking for in those
- 15 situations.
- So this is what I wanted to share, so that it
- 17 can help you in your thinking process. And Dr.
- 18 Greenberger mentioned about subtypes, endotypes, that
- 19 they're important. And sometimes trials gets -- gives
- 20 a hint of efficacy, and then it will not be for all
- 21 patients and subgroups. And if somebody shows and
- 22 proves efficacy in their subgroup, then that becomes a

- 1 limitation of use, it works in that subgroup, and the
- 2 label can inform that. We don't have this for this
- 3 drug as in the previous label.
- 4 Thank you.
- 5 DR. JACOBY: Thank you. Dr. Blake?
- 6 DR. BLAKE: In looking at the regulatory
- 7 requirements, we have two trials that meet the primary
- 8 endpoints statistically and clinically. The first
- 9 trial does that; the second one doesn't. But it is
- 10 very close.
- 11 And I can't remember if any of the analyses
- 12 looked at whether there was an interaction by country
- 13 in terms of the outcome. And I bring it up only in
- 14 light of the Argentinian data showing, you know, in
- 15 those eight sites or whatever it was that there was a
- 16 decrease I think of -- in FEV1 and there wasn't even a
- 17 benefit.
- 18 So I just wondered if one of the countries
- 19 kind of drove the result of Trial 302 to make it just
- 20 barely not significant.
- 21 MS. ZHOU: There's no significant p-value for
- 22 the testing of the interaction for treatment by country.

- 1 Selecting countries with extreme outcomes in terms of
- 2 the treatment effect and excluding those centers may
- 3 cause the overall results to go in the other direction.
- 4 However, selcting centers based on a post-randomization
- 5 outcome is not appropriate. We should not do that.
- 6 I think that is not a fair way to treat the efficacy
- 7 data.
- B DR. JACOBY: Dr. Herring?
- DR. HERRING: So when I look at this, I see
- 10 two studies. Study 1 was the study with a very small P
- 11 value, but it was plagued by 30 percent or slightly
- 12 more in the treatment group missing data. There are no
- 13 patients from the U.S., and if you remember the plots
- 14 there was no difference in the children that is
- 15 statistically significant. And those lines the FDA
- 16 showed were just on top of each other.
- 17 And then, the study that followed at 302 was
- 18 a study that they had learned. There wasn't a lot of
- 19 missing data. They did not have a big problem with
- 20 missing data, but they did have U.S. patients, but it
- 21 wasn't statistically significant. And I would feel a
- 22 whole lot better if the order had been reversed, if the

- 1 small P value had come from the study without much
- 2 missing data.
- And so to me the results are really mixed,
- 4 and I would love -- I would love to see the sponsor
- 5 find the population that this helps and to show that it
- 6 is effective in that population. But because of the
- 7 issues with the differential dropout, the control group
- 8 is not the same as those remaining on treatment.
- 9 And so, you know, this hasn't, in my mind,
- 10 been done yet. I would love to see that study. I
- 11 would love to have that population found and have
- 12 efficacy shown, and in that case I would be really
- 13 supportive.
- DR. JACOBY: Mr. Mullins?
- MR. MULLINS: I would just like to piggyback
- 16 on what Dr. Herring said. In going back to the issue
- 17 of public health and how the public will interpret our
- 18 analysis, they don't have the benefit of our
- 19 deliberations.
- 20 So what I -- I would feel much better about
- 21 saying yes if, rather than the presentation of the
- 22 therapy being a panacea, that it were strict -- there

- 1 were some parameters, there was a tighter profile on
- 2 efficacy. Then, I think the public could say, "You
- 3 know what? I understand the effectiveness of this drug
- 4 in relation to who I am," rather than it being
- 5 presented as, "Oh, this is for me," which leads to a
- 6 number of issues that we have seen in the past, because
- 7 the children will be forced to take it, because their
- 8 parents will say, "This is your medicine. You have
- 9 been prescribed this. You are going to stay on this
- 10 particular therapy," which concerns me with issues of
- 11 public health.
- 12 And so it's the presentation. If we would
- 13 have forthrightness from the sponsor, say, "Look, we've
- 14 studied this particular therapy. We see some -- we
- 15 understand why there is intolerance. We understand why
- 16 there is a high level of rejection or discontinuations,
- 17 and we have learned from this analysis." We would then
- 18 take that -- those best practices and interpret that
- 19 for the American public and give them the benefit of
- 20 knowing the profile of success for proper usage of this
- 21 therapy.
- So those are my concerns, just piggybacking

- 1 on what you said, Dr. Herring.
- 2 Thank you.
- 3 DR. HARKINS: I agree it is underwhelming
- 4 data for efficacy, though my one thought is that these
- 5 patients are usually followed in a CF center with
- 6 physicians that have expertise in giving these
- 7 medications and would know what things to monitor. So
- 8 it wouldn't be like they are out there for -- I doubt
- 9 the general practitioner would prescribe this.
- 10 I think it would be someone that would have
- 11 more expertise in this patient population, that may,
- 12 you know, try this medication or at least be aware of
- 13 the side effects. But I agree; I am not overwhelmed by
- 14 the efficacy. It would have been nice if it had been a
- 15 positive thing in both studies.
- MR. MULLINS: I just want 30 seconds. I just
- 17 wanted to say, Dr. Harkins, I can appreciate what
- 18 you're saying, but I have concerns about all of our
- 19 children don't have CF centers. We have children in
- 20 the public health system that are living in rural
- 21 environments, that don't have access to these -- the
- 22 benefits of a CF center. So they would be very

- 1 vulnerable to our recommendations, and their parents
- 2 would be interpreting this data or this recommendation
- 3 on a very literal basis.
- 4 So I would -- that's why our assessments and
- 5 our recommendations have to take into consideration of
- 6 the heterogeneity of our American public. So I do want
- 7 to inject that.
- 8 Thank you.
- 9 DR. JACOBY: Dr. Tracy?
- 10 DR. TRACY: I'm going to have to kind of
- 11 respectfully disagree with my colleague here. I
- 12 actually practiced in a rural state, and that has been
- 13 my experience is that they may not go every day, but
- 14 they do get to the CF center pretty often.
- The other thing I am struck with here is that
- 16 I am reminded that we take care of people, not
- 17 statistics. And I think we always have to keep that in
- 18 mind, and I'm further struck by the fact that CF
- 19 physicians that manage many of these clinics around the
- 20 country speak so strongly about that. That said, you
- 21 know, the data isn't, you know, particularly
- 22 overwhelming.

- 1 Thank you.
- DR. JACOBY: Dr. Connett?
- 3 DR. CONNETT: I agree regarding the data
- 4 being fairly weak that the effect size is not large.
- 5 Dr. Dundore's presentation on C-16 I guess it
- 6 is stresses that one of the goals of CF treatment is to
- 7 lessen exacerbations. And what we have been talking
- 8 about mostly here is the surrogate FEV1 improvement,
- 9 and I think it could be a mistake to approve a drug on
- 10 weak evidence for a surrogate.
- 11 The standards of sensitivity testing and the
- 12 tipping point analysis and those sorts of things were
- 13 not applied for exacerbations or for hemoptysis. And
- 14 so I kind of feel like those analyses could have been
- 15 carried out as well, but it is not here.
- DR. JACOBY: Dr. Castile?
- DR. CASTILE: I feel like I have to comment,
- 18 and I guess I agree -- maybe this is the time to give
- 19 my take on this. After reviewing all of the material
- 20 and listening to all of the testimony, particularly
- 21 from the public, what I carried away is that there is a
- 22 borderline effect on FEV1 that is in the two to four

- 1 percent range. I think it was Ms. Zhou who stated that.
- 2 It rung a bell with me because that's what I carried
- 3 away when I came in the room.
- 4 Beyond that, there is no evidence at all of
- 5 any clinical effect. And so that is my summary of the
- 6 data.
- 7 I think, though, there are -- in the data
- 8 there is a suggestion that there is a -- and the
- 9 testimony, that there is a significant subset that may
- 10 benefit from the drug. And, again, what I gleaned from
- 11 looking at all of the data was that this subset
- 12 probably has an FEV1 between 40 and 70 and they are
- 13 probably adults. And that is both from the data I
- 14 looked at before I came and then some of the
- 15 presentation from the drug company.
- And so it is quite a dilemma when you
- 17 certainly want to provide -- and I'm a provider -- that
- 18 kind of therapy to -- and what was striking about the
- 19 testimony was -- from the public is it was all from
- 20 people in adult -- well, adults with cystic fibrosis
- 21 and directors of adult centers, which kind of, in a
- 22 subjective way, verifies my sense that they have the

- 1 sense that it works in that adult population.
- 2 So I have quite a dilemma in terms of how to
- 3 think about this or how to vote, because I don't see
- 4 adult patients, but if I did I would kind of want that
- 5 option, you know?
- 6 The other comment I would have is that about
- 7 halfway through reviewing the massive number of pages
- 8 that I was sent, I was quite -- sometimes this is not
- 9 too interesting. I found this data just enthralling
- 10 and very interesting. But sort of halfway through it I
- 11 thought, this is the greatest preliminary data I have
- 12 ever seen.
- And I began to think about how to design the
- 14 definitive trial. And then I stopped because I
- 15 realized this was the definitive data to answer these
- 16 questions. And so that's just my take on the whole
- 17 process so far.
- DR. JACOBY: Dr. Parad?
- 19 DR. PARAD: I concur with Dr. Castile about
- 20 the efficacy issue. I was wondering whether we could
- 21 talk about defining the efficacy, because just looking
- 22 at the P value is not the whole story. And looking at

- 1 the effect size is not the whole story.
- 2 If we look at the history of what has
- 3 happened to CF treatment in the past 20 years, there
- 4 has been an incremental addition of things that make a
- 5 small improvement. And when those have all been added
- 6 together, the impact on meeting survival has been
- 7 pretty significant.
- 8 So, personally, I would say a two to four
- 9 percent increase in FEV1 doesn't sound like a very big
- 10 effect size, but that may be really -- adding it on to
- 11 all of the other things, may make a significant
- 12 difference to some patients. So if we are -- if we
- 13 have to agree on how we define "efficacy," I guess I
- 14 would propose maybe talking about whether that range of
- 15 FEV1 is an acceptable definition.
- DR. JACOBY: Anyone have thoughts on that?
- 17 Mr. Hawkins?
- MR. HAWKINS: I would say it is.
- 19 DR. JACOBY: Yes, I'm sorry. Dr. Wagener?
- 20 DR. WAGENER: I think you could take two
- 21 approaches. As with everything, one is you say
- 22 anything is better than nothing, in which case a one

- 1 milliliter improvement would be considered valuable.
- 2 And I would imagine if you asked just about any CF
- 3 patient that is what they would say, anything is
- 4 valuable.
- 5 Conversely, I would argue that adding
- 6 something if it has no burden, that may be true, but
- 7 everything we do -- we have been hearing how this has
- 8 less burden than some other therapies, such as
- 9 hypertonic saline. But it still has more burden than
- 10 nothing.
- 11 And if you gain one milliliter but the burden
- 12 is such that you end up not doing something else that
- 13 had greater benefit for whatever reason, then you have
- 14 lost. And that is where the risk is of accepting very
- 15 small steps, because you may lose even worse in
- 16 something else.
- DR. JACOBY: Yes, Dr. Castile.
- 18 DR. CASTILE: Well, I think two to four
- 19 percent is pretty small, and it is in the range of the
- 20 variability of FEV1 in patients with cystic fibrosis.
- 21 But I sort of look at it in another light. What the
- 22 company did was tested this on a very broad population.

And the other thing, is this -- there is no 1 longer a virgin population. So that 50 and 70 percent 2 of the patients were already on things that clear mucus 3 in various ways, whether it's DNase or an oscillating 5 vest or whatever. So in that light, it makes for me the two to 6 four percent increase -- I mean, actually, in thinking 7 about designing the next study, I can't reproduce the previous studies on things like DNase, because the 10 population is not there. And so if the improvement 11 there -- and what I tell patients is it was somewhere between seven and 10 percent in the various studies. 12 13 I don't think it's likely that if you take that non-virgin population and add another hydrating 14 agent that you are going to get the same effect. 15 16 that you get any effect that is borderline measurable is actually fairly striking, and the biggest problem I 17 18 have is the breadth of the study and what subpopulation 19 it really helps the most. 20 DR. JACOBY: Yes, Dr. Druce. 21 DR. DRUCE: I'd just like to make just a few

comments about clinical study design in general as it

- 1 pertains to this and to the efficacy of this product.
- 2 And that especially in orphan indications, when it is
- 3 difficult to adequately recruit large populations,
- 4 there is a natural inclination to take -- or comes
- 5 especially when the endpoint is a surrogate endpoint
- 6 and it's not universally clear that a particular
- 7 endpoint is going to be valid.
- 8 It would of course be desirable to look at
- 9 outcomes and to look at a wider variety of secondary
- 10 outcomes on this particular product and ones like it,
- 11 but I think you have heard the difficulty of the cystic
- 12 fibrosis patients' life in conducting -- being able to
- 13 do this as well as getting involved in clinical trials
- 14 that are also burdensome.
- 15 So participating for 26 weeks in this type of
- 16 activity is a significant period of time, although, as
- 17 you have heard, you know, a longer trial might be
- 18 necessary to look at exacerbations.
- 19 So, again, if you were deciding or
- 20 considering further trials looking at endotypes,
- 21 looking at subpopulations, would really be much more
- 22 challenging in terms of recruiting patients in adequate

- 1 numbers to be able to conduct that type of a study.
- 2 Also, I would just bear in mind that looking
- 3 at endpoints in the area of mucociliary clearance is
- 4 particularly challenging. I mean, we don't even have
- 5 consensus about what is a cough, if we are looking at
- 6 cough studies. And so using something that we can
- 7 measure like FEV1 as a surrogate in this particular
- 8 case is obviously a surrogate, but it is something that
- 9 is measurable, and there is always a correlation that
- 10 the clinician has to take from the observed measurement
- 11 to what they think will be the benefit from the
- 12 patient.
- 13 And I think that you have clearly heard
- 14 certainly from the public and certainly from some of
- 15 the experts that there are people who do respond to
- 16 this particular medication.
- DR. FOX: I would just like to point out that
- 18 we did do an extensive responder-type analysis to try
- 19 and identify a more optimal population, and we looked
- 20 at all of the key baseline features, based on gender,
- 21 FEV1, reversibility, an extensive list, all of the
- 22 different factors that we had that we could use.

- 1 None of these -- so this is the list that we
- 2 used to -- does that come up? I'm trying to get the
- 3 slide up there to show you the list, but it's not
- 4 coming up.
- 5 So you will see that this was an extensive
- 6 list of baseline risk factors that we did try and
- 7 evaluate, and what we found -- none of these were --
- 8 gave real clinical utility in terms of identifying a
- 9 specific responder population. And I think this
- 10 absolutely echoes the fact that patients need such
- 11 individualized therapy in CF there is this idea that
- 12 wouldn't it be great if we could know firsthand on the
- 13 specific phenotype of patient who would respond.
- 14 The fact is, in this case, the mechanism of
- 15 action of this drug does apply across a broad range.
- 16 The study was done in a broad range of patients, but
- 17 ultimately I don't think we could have designed a
- 18 study. First of all, it wouldn't be representative.
- 19 But, secondly, I don't think it would get us anywhere.
- 20 What we do know, though, is that patients who do
- 21 respond tend to stay responders, and those patients who
- 22 do not respond tend to stay non-responders.

- 1 So, actually, I think far greater utility is
- 2 based on the data that I showed you earlier, which
- 3 relates to the fact that there is an opportunity for a
- 4 very brief trial of therapy, reduced exposure in
- 5 patients, but those patients who aren't showing
- 6 anything, then those will be the patients that could be
- 7 considered non-responders.
- 8 Thank you.
- 9 DR. JACOBY: Thank you. Yes, Mr. Hawkins.
- 10 MR. HAWKINS: I just wanted to remind
- 11 everyone that, you know, the only drug currently being
- 12 used for this role is hypertonic saline, which is not
- 13 FDA approved, and up until a couple of years ago had to
- 14 be compounded by outsourcing pharmacies.
- 15 So we are not replacing one approved drug
- 16 with another drug that we are trying to approve. We
- 17 are approving a drug for an unmet need or a not-
- 18 approved need.
- 19 DR. JACOBY: Okay. Mr. Mullins, yes.
- 20 MR. MULLINS: I guess the other thing I was
- 21 looking for from the sponsor also was just stronger
- 22 evidence, if you look -- look at time as a

- 1 consideration over the longitudinal analysis, it was
- 2 not encouraging to me, and I was looking for -- there
- 3 were some plateaus and there was -- you know, there was
- 4 some actual reduction in FEV1 over, you know, when I
- 5 look at weeks six to 26 and some of those analyses.
- 6 So that kind of concerned me also as far as
- 7 efficacy when you look at it from -- on a longitudinal
- 8 basis.
- 9 DR. FOX: On the longitudinal basis, I think
- 10 the data is quite remarkable, and the patients who did
- 11 show a response at week six were extremely likely to
- 12 remain responders. And I showed you the slide, perhaps
- 13 you remember, showing the relationship between response
- 14 at week six and week 26.
- So showing the data in individual patients
- 16 rather than even just with the average data, we see
- 17 that patients who do respond at six weeks tend to stay
- 18 responders. So I think actually the longitudinal data
- 19 is very supportive of physicians being able to make a
- 20 decision early on.
- 21 MR. MULLINS: I guess I was looking at the
- 22 cumulative data when you look at post-marketing

analysis, when you look at -- when you look at post-2 marketing analysis, that is what I was referring to. And thank for that --3 DR. FOX: So understood. 5 MR. MULLINS: Thank you for that DR. FOX: That's a good --6 7 MR. MULLINS: -- but I was looking on the cumulative level. That's -- you know, when you look at it, some of the analysis from South America, Argentina, 10 that is the kind of -- I was looking for more 11 trajectory, and I saw more -- some of the results I saw didn't -- were not overwhelming, so --12 If I may respond, I mean, I think 13 DR. FOX: that's a very valid point which is one of the great 14 beauties of the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation registry is 15 that we could actually track patients instead of just 16 six months or open label to a year that we have already 17 done. It would enable us to track patients for years 18 19 beyond. And the only way you can do that is actually 20 giving access to patients, to the medicine, to be able 21 to track them over a longer period of time. 22 DR. JACOBY: Thank you. Dr. Durmowicz?

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- 1 DR. DURMOWICZ: With regard to
- 2 subpopulations, I think given the issues with the
- 3 dropout and the data itself, that the most important
- 4 subpopulation that you want to know about in trying to
- 5 make a fair comparison are the population of tolerators
- 6 taking the control medication.
- 7 And to do that, you would have to give the
- 8 patients the mannitol tolerance test, put everybody on
- 9 inhaled mannitol for a certain predefined period of
- 10 time, define the tolerators, because the people
- 11 wouldn't tolerate it, and then randomize the drug and
- 12 control. That would give you the appropriate comparator
- 13 group in a clinical study.
- 14 That issue, the apples and oranges issue,
- 15 doesn't go away, even though, you know, one study was
- 16 positive and one wasn't.
- DR. JACOBY: Thank you. Okay. So that's the
- 18 discussion of efficacy in patients six years and older.
- 19 Let's go on to the discussion of the overall safety
- 20 profile of dry powder mannitol.
- 21 Mr. Mullins?
- MR. MULLINS: I guess very briefly, my

- 1 primary concern when I questioned the analysis of the
- 2 concern -- the signals from hemoptysis, and the
- 3 response from the sponsor was that's just -- when we
- 4 look at that particular -- we look at the high
- 5 occurrence of hemoptysis in children, and the response
- 6 from the sponsor was, "This is just an issue of
- 7 chance."
- 8 And that concerned me, and I think I need a
- 9 non- Vegas-style answer to -- you know, to understand
- 10 why there was this, you know, high occurrence, because
- 11 I think the American public needs to know, because we
- 12 need -- and then that would lead us to a greater
- 13 movement toward understanding -- better understanding
- 14 the profile of the optimal subpopulation that we are
- 15 talking about here.
- So that is one of my primary concerns. I
- 17 think it's an issue, and I'd like the sponsor to speak
- 18 to that issue.
- 19 DR. FOX: Thank you. First of all, to
- 20 categorically make clear we are not saying this is
- 21 purely chance. We do recognize this as a signal,
- 22 particularly in children, and we take that signal very

- 1 seriously.
- 2 What we do not know at this point is the size
- 3 of that risk and whether that risk is manageable or
- 4 not. Our view is, as it stands, that the benefit
- 5 outweighs the risk, and that is manageable. But I
- 6 think it is probably more appropriate if you ask one of
- 7 my clinical experts than somebody who is the sponsor.
- 8 But I think what we think is so important is
- 9 that by doing a registry we could actually evaluate the
- 10 size of that risk. We can never evaluate that risk
- 11 effectively by repeating studies. It is not going to
- 12 get us anywhere. We really need to know, is this a
- 13 manageable risk? And the only way that can be
- 14 addressed is through registry data.
- 15 Remember, the vast majority of the U.S. CF
- 16 population is part of the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation
- 17 registry, so that would be a possibility. But I don't
- 18 know if I'm allowed to call on any of my experts in
- 19 terms of the manageability of risk. So I think I would
- 20 ask Dr. Ratjen, if I could, as he is the pediatrician
- 21 on the panel, in terms of his view on the manageability
- 22 of the risk that we see.

- 1 DR. RATJEN: Yes. So it certainly is
- 2 something that you should take seriously. There is no
- 3 question about it. And hemoptysis in children overall
- 4 is rare. I think we provided some data in the slides
- 5 previously that the group of patients that had
- 6 hemoptysis was somewhat more severe in their lung
- 7 function than others.
- 8 And you have to take into account it's a
- 9 progressive disease, so a child that has a lung
- 10 function of, let's say, 50 percent is very different
- 11 from an adult who has a lung function of 50 percent
- 12 because of the progressiveness of the disease. So for
- 13 a child that would be severe disease.
- 14 These episodes of hemoptysis in children were
- 15 transient. They did not lead to long-term problems
- 16 with these patients, and overall these patients that
- 17 had hemoptysis did have some benefit in terms of lung
- 18 function. So I guess that's the question of the risk
- 19 versus the benefit.
- 20 I, as a clinician, would say that the risk is
- 21 acceptable for the potential benefit, but of course you
- 22 would also put this into account of making a decision

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- 1 in
- 2 --
- 3 MR. MULLINS: But let me respond to that.
- 4 When you look at the data, the clarity of the adverse
- 5 events is very pronounced. The clarity of the
- 6 benefits, if we are looking at -- if we are doing a
- 7 risk/benefit analysis as far as public health is
- 8 concerned, the clarity and the conclusiveness of the
- 9 data as it speaks to efficacy is quite vague and
- 10 sometimes elusive.
- But when we talk about -- as I mentioned,
- 12 when we talk about hemoptysis, and with several other
- 13 issues related to the toxicity of this treatment,
- 14 therapy is very pronounced. There is no, you know,
- 15 lack of clarity here.
- So I think that is -- when you are doing the
- 17 risk/benefit analysis, if the benefits were so
- 18 pronounced and very clear to me, and to my peers, I
- 19 think that there would be an overwhelming gesture of
- 20 support for this therapy. But that's where I have this
- 21 consternation is trying to understand, okay, if we are
- 22 going to put the American public at risk with this high

- 1 level of toxicity, and this therapy, then what is the
- 2 win for them? That's where the window begins to close
- 3 for me.
- 4 So maybe you can help me with that.
- 5 DR. RATJEN: So I can understand that you
- 6 have to weigh one versus the other. I think one of the
- 7 issues is if you look at the efficacy data, one of the
- 8 ways you can look at it is to look at differences
- 9 versus control, and that is usually what you do in a
- 10 clinical trial.
- But the -- what you see in these clinical
- 12 trials is that the control groups actually do see some
- 13 benefit beyond what we usually see in CF studies. So
- 14 we don't usually see that much of a change in the
- 15 control group in a clinical study, so I think that's
- 16 also important to take into account if you look at the
- 17 size of the treatment effect.
- 18 And I think the -- for me, as a pediatrician,
- 19 it is reassuring that these episodes of hemoptysis had
- 20 no long-term negative effect on those patients. And I
- 21 think it is important, as it was mentioned before, that
- 22 patients with cystic fibrosis, the overwhelming amount

- 1 of patients with cystic fibrosis are being cared for by
- 2 experts who have a lot of experience in that field, and
- 3 have a lot of experience with dealing with hemoptysis,
- 4 be it in children or in adults.
- 5 DR. JACOBY: Thank you.
- 6 DR. FOX: Could you perhaps comment -- slide
- 7 up, please. Professor Ratjen, I wondered if you could
- 8 comment on the clarity of the signal in terms of
- 9 hemoptysis risk when what we are really looking at when
- 10 we look at the exacerbation incidence in totality is
- 11 10.4 percent versus 7.6 percent.
- 12 So although we recognize as a signal, I think
- 13 it is important to remember these numbers.
- DR. RATJEN: Well, it is also clear that the
- 15 majority of events we are associated with pulmonary
- 16 exacerbations -- where this is more commonly seen.
- 17 And, again, I don't want to downplay the risk of
- 18 hemoptysis. It certainly is an important consideration.
- 19 But, again, these were not long-term problems; these
- 20 were transient. And you have to consider that these
- 21 patients stayed on the medication despite the fact that
- 22 they had these opposite -- these episodes.

- 1 So, and that is usually not the case if there
- 2 is a perceived negative effect on the patient side as
- 3 well.
- 4 DR. JACOBY: Thank you. Dr. Witzmann?
- 5 DR. WITZMANN: Thank you. I would just like
- 6 to point out a few issues with regard to hemoptysis for
- 7 the Committee to consider. And the first is that these
- 8 issues of hemoptysis that I pointed out on my slides,
- 9 there were episodes of serious adverse event, and the
- 10 definition of serious adverse event includes things
- 11 such as hospitalizations or prolongation of
- 12 hospitalization.
- 13 And they were -- again, there was not a grand
- 14 number, but it was at a rate of eight or 2.2 percent of
- 15 the pediatric patients treated on the DPM group -- or
- 16 of the DPM group versus control of two patients. So
- 17 there is a difference in that group, and these patients
- 18 were all randomized.
- 19 And, again, getting back to the point, I just
- 20 wanted to also bring out the point with regard to these
- 21 patients in the pediatric group who had episodes of
- 22 hemoptysis in general did have much lower FEV1s than

- 1 one would think of for a general pediatric population.
- 2 However, the pediatric group was randomized.
- 3 Therefore, there is still an increased number of
- 4 patients in the DPM treatment arm who had more episodes
- 5 of hemoptysis than all of the pediatric patients in the
- 6 control group.
- 7 So the second thing I want to point out is
- 8 that this was not the analysis interpreting all of the
- 9 episodes of hemoptysis, whether they occurred with an
- 10 exacerbation or not. This was just the ones that were
- 11 reported by the investigators as adverse events. That
- 12 meant that there was something in that person's
- 13 clinical judgment that said that this was abnormal and
- 14 of concern, so I am going to report it.
- 15 Even when you take those number of patients
- 16 who may have been having an exacerbation and had an
- 17 additional hemoptysis, when the sponsor compiled that
- 18 data as well, which you have also seen, there was still
- 19 an increased number that was greater in the DPM
- 20 pediatric population than that of the control
- 21 population for the pediatric group as well.
- So I just wanted out to point out those few

- 1 thoughts. Thank you.
- DR. CHARLTON: Can I just clarify one point
- 3 about that? There were three SAEs of hemoptysis in the
- 4 six- to 17-year-olds. But the reason there were SAEs
- 5 is that they were hospitalized for the exacerbation
- 6 that was occurring at the same time.
- 7 DR. JACOBY: Thank you. Dr. Blake?
- BLAKE: In looking at this differential
- 9 risk in the pediatric patients, were there any -- this
- 10 is to the sponsor. Were there any data looking at the
- 11 lung dose, the amount of drug that actually reached the
- 12 lung of children versus the adults? To help maybe
- 13 clarify whether or not there was a difference in just
- 14 the amount of drug by their body size that might
- 15 explain some of it.
- DR. FOX: I'm really sorry. Could you repeat
- 17 that question?
- 18 DR. BLAKE: Sure. In looking at this
- 19 differential risk of hemoptysis in children, did you
- 20 have any data that you looked at, say before the
- 21 clinical trials, to help determine what dose of drug
- 22 reached the lung in children? Maybe it was greater

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- 1 proportionately than what was in adults that reached
- 2 the lung.
- 3 DR. FOX: So in terms of deposition by age, I
- 4 would like Dr. Dundore to cover -- cover in terms of
- 5 the distribution. What we do have in terms of dose
- 6 ranging based on FEV1 you saw already, but I think
- 7 you're asking a different question, which is how much
- 8 drug is actually getting into the lung, and, therefore,
- 9 should there be differential dosing based on
- 10 deposition.
- DR. BLAKE: Right. I mean, if there is some
- 12 direct toxic effect of the drug onto the lung to cause
- 13 hemoptysis, then --
- DR. FOX: Yes. So I'd like to --
- DR. BLAKE: -- that's what I'm wondering.
- DR. FOX: -- Dr. Dundore to talk about the
- 17 lung toxicity data, please.
- 18 DR. DUNDORE: We have not specifically looked
- 19 at the differential deposition in adults versus
- 20 children, but in adults the deposition of dose -- of
- 21 inhaled dose is about 25 percent.
- DR. FOX: In terms of lung toxicity, have you

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- 1 seen the panel study?
- DR. DUNDORE: Oh, there is no -- in the
- 3 animal toxicity, there is no evidence of lung toxicity.
- 4 DR. RATJEN: It's a bit difficult to do this
- 5 for this drug in terms of looking at dosing in
- 6 different age groups, because you cannot measure levels
- 7 of this compound. It certainly has been done for other
- 8 drugs, including antibiotics that -- like tobramycin,
- 9 both for nebulizer solutions as well as for dry powder
- 10 preparations.
- 11 And there is no evidence to suggest that
- 12 there is an age dependency in dosing, so that younger
- 13 patients would get a higher dose, because deposition is
- 14 quite a complex issue and there are multiple factors
- 15 that play into it. But the bottom line is that for
- 16 those drugs that have been studied in cystic fibrosis,
- 17 there doesn't seem to be an age dependency in terms of
- 18 deposition, if you measure it by serum level, or for
- 19 DNase there is also some studies looking at
- 20 bronchoalveolar lavage where there wasn't an age
- 21 dependency of deposition.
- 22 DR. JACOBY: But none of those was done with

- 1 your device or your formulation or powder, you know,
 2 particle size or -3 DR. RATJEN: No. This is just the overall
- 4 pediatric experience. It is not directly related to
- 5 this device.
- 6 DR. JACOBY: Dr. Tracy?
- 7 DR. TRACY: Just a quick one. Might as well
- 8 go back up there. Have you thought at all about
- 9 mechanistic reasons for the hemoptysis in kids? You
- 10 said we really don't know much about toxicology. What
- 11 do you think is doing it?
- DR. RATJEN: I mean, there is certainly -- I
- 13 mean, if you think about what the drug does in the
- 14 airways, so it clears mucus out of the lung, you could
- 15 expect if you clear mucus out of areas that have been
- 16 plugged up for quite a while that there is the
- 17 opportunity that there is some minor portion of
- 18 hemoptysis in the same setting.
- 19 So, and there is some irritation of the
- 20 airway causing cough, so it could well be this link
- 21 between cough and opening of mucus plugs.
- But Dr. Bilton wants to say something,

- 1 because she has some experience with that.
- DR. BILTON: Yeah. I mean, clearly, those of
- 3 us using the drug have thought a lot about the patients
- 4 who have had these small hemoptysis. One of the things
- 5 -- and people with CF, they come into my clinic and
- 6 they want to know -- "I have just coughed up a bit of
- 7 blood. Is it the toby that I'm taking? Was it the asli
- 8 (ph) that I started?" And clearly there is a signal
- 9 here in children that we need to take seriously.
- 10 My experience with some of the patients --
- 11 and I am an adult physician -- but it relates to this
- 12 suddenly getting up a lot of horrible dark sputum, and
- 13 patients describe coughing up thick coral-like cast
- 14 structures. And I wonder if when they are coughing
- 15 those up they are exposing a grazed, bleeding airway.
- The events Dr. Charlton can speak to, but
- 17 they were more predominantly towards the beginning of
- 18 the trial, not towards the end. And the majority were
- 19 not recurrent.
- Now, clearly, we need to follow this up.
- 21 Clearly, a registry study would help, but I wonder if
- 22 some of the hemoptysis is part of the effect of the

- 1 drug of clearing stuff that has been stuck down there.
- 2 But I can't say that is, but it's one of my hypotheses.
- 3 DR. TRACY: So your thought is it may not
- 4 necessarily be the drug per se, but the effect of the
- 5 drug.
- 6 DR. MILTON: Yeah. It may be part of the
- 7 efficacy, a side effect of the efficacy. But I can't
- 8 say that definitively, and I do believe that's why we
- 9 need to follow these patients up in the CF centers.
- 10 And the fact that patients stay on the drug
- 11 is a signal to me that they are weighing up the
- 12 balance. I fully appreciate with children you have to
- 13 be very careful. The adults can choose for themselves.
- 14 But that is one of my theories.
- DR. JACOBY: Dr. Wagener?
- DR. WAGENER: So I find the issue of safety
- 17 to be the biggest concern here. The efficacy, at least
- 18 for adults, I can feel pretty comfortable with, but the
- 19 safety is a big thing and I want to just mention two
- 20 areas. One is what we have been talking about and that
- 21 is hemoptysis.
- Hemoptysis is a relatively uncommon thing in

- 1 pediatrics, and to see the numbers bump as much as
- 2 these did I think cannot be underestimated as far as it
- 3 could be something. It would be interesting to know if
- 4 they have looked at inflammation or some of these other
- 5 issues that might be related. So that is one thing I
- 6 think, particularly in pediatrics, throws a lot of
- 7 caution.
- 8 The second, though, is a longer term question
- 9 of safety. Since these studies were just six months
- 10 long, and even the extension study, I don't know how
- 11 much data they have collected beyond lung function on
- 12 that, there didn't seem to be a lot reported, at least
- 13 looking through the files that we had originally.
- 14 A chronic irritant may have chronic injury --
- 15 create chronic injury to the airway, and, as such,
- 16 particularly in children -- remember, children are not
- 17 just small adults. Particularly in children with a
- 18 growing airway, I would worry that this is a drug, if
- 19 approved, is not going to be limited to just the severe
- 20 lung disease patients.
- It is going to become used in all degrees of
- 22 lung disease, and, in fact, people, if anything, will

- 1 interpret it the opposite of what we are, and they will
- 2 be saying, "Gee, since you are 120 percent predicted
- 3 lung function, we'd better get you on this medicine to
- 4 prevent it falling."
- 5 If there is a long-term adverse effect
- 6 creating inflammation, or something of this type, then
- 7 we are going to be creating a real problem that we may
- 8 not recognize for a couple of years. And, yes, the
- 9 Foundation registry with help us with that, but it
- 10 seems like we need to maybe know some of that data
- 11 earlier.
- DR. JACOBY: Dr. Greenberger?
- DR. GREENBERGER: My question is on safety
- 14 from the -- I believe it was eight sites in Argentina.
- 15 Were there excessive or a disproportionate number of
- 16 safety findings there, in that the efficacy data did
- 17 not coincide with the other centers around the world?
- 18 DR. FOX: I don't have that specific safety
- 19 data by country available now. Obviously, we do have
- 20 it available. It's not something we prepared. What
- 21 might be useful, though, would be to ask Dr. Ratjen to
- 22 comment on his experience -- he has visited a number of

- 1 South American sites -- in terms of the care available
- 2 in the United States compared to the care in South
- 3 America, and perhaps why we may have seen this rather
- 4 anomalous result.
- 5 DR. RATJEN: I think what the data from
- 6 Argentina shows is not necessarily a lack of change in
- 7 the group treated with 400 milligrams of DPM, but also
- 8 a huge control effect. And we know that the overall
- 9 level of care in Argentina is different from North
- 10 America.
- 11 We know that the outcome of patients in
- 12 Argentina, unfortunately, is much less favorable than
- 13 it is in North America as well.
- To pin this down to certain factors is
- 15 difficult, but to me my interpretation of the data in
- 16 Argentina is that there was a trial effect that exceed
- 17 the trial effect in any other country. The patients
- 18 that were entered into the trial did get overall better
- 19 care, and, therefore, you saw this effect in both
- 20 groups in terms of improvement of their status.
- 21 In terms of adverse events and serious
- 22 adverse events, I don't think there was a clear signal

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- from Australia, but I have to give this back to Dr.
- Charlton in order to comment on it. 2
- 3 DR. CHARLTON: I meant Argentina.
- DR. RATJEN: Yeah.
- 5 DR. GREENBERGER: Argentina is what I'm
- talking about.
- 7 DR. RATJEN: Oh. So I didn't want -- I
- wanted to say Argentina. Sorry. And I have to
- apologize to my Australian colleagues who are not here.
- 10 DR. GREENBERGER: So you think perhaps the
- care was superior to the other CF centers in Argentina, 11
- and maybe that explained the difference. 12
- DR. FOX: So we did look for a center effect 13
- as well, and we seem to be -- there is a consistent 14
- control effect across the Argentinian centers that we 15
- 16 didn't see elsewhere.
- So Dr. Ratjen's slide up, please. So this is 17
- the data by center, so it is variable in terms of the 18
- 19 degree of control effect, but it is quite remarkably
- 20 different to -- these are very small numbers of course
- in each center, but it is quite remarkably different to 21
- 22 the patent that we saw throughout the rest of the

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- 1 world.
- 2 Just a brief point to an earlier point about
- 3 whether hemoptysis risk increases over time. We did
- 4 look at the incidence of hemoptysis in the first six
- 5 months, and we compared that to -- yes, slide up,
- 6 please. And we compared that to the incidence, then,
- 7 in the open-label phase.
- 8 So the patients on bronchitol, who then
- 9 continued the incidence, although slightly lower
- 10 numbers by the way -- this is a percentage -- 9.4
- 11 percent incidence and a 6.8 percent incidence in the
- 12 open label. So it doesn't look like there is an
- 13 increase.
- On the other hand, the control group, who
- 15 then switched to receive 400 milligrams, did see a
- 16 small increase. So it suggests that this isn't
- 17 something that increases over time, but it does give
- 18 some veracity that this is -- this could be a real
- 19 signal rather than just a numerical difference.
- 20 DR. WAGENER: Although let me point out on
- 21 that that only 250 of your 360 patients continued, and
- 22 the 100 that dropped out may have been all the ones

- 1 with hemoptysis. And so what you are left with are the
- 2 patients who never had hemoptysis and now they're
- 3 having it, so --
- DR. FOX: Well, except, of course, that
- 5 patients with hemoptysis in children actually
- 6 continued. So had it been patients withdrawing because
- 7 of hemoptysis, that would absolutely be the case. And,
- 8 in fact, we see the reverse, that the patients with
- 9 hemoptysis were continuing. So I think that's -- so I
- 10 think the data is probably quite useful.
- DR. JACOBY: Mr. Mullins?
- MR. MULLINS: I would just like to caution
- 13 against -- there has been a lot of discussion on
- 14 burden. I would caution against shifting the burden of
- 15 safety to the consumer, and the reason I say that is
- 16 because there is a lot of discussion about if you live
- 17 near a CF center, and have the benefit of excellent
- 18 care of my colleague Dr. Tracy, where everyone doesn't
- 19 have all of these parameters, these unique situations
- 20 where they can handle that burden of safety.
- 21 So I would just caution against saying,
- 22 "Well, if they have this and they have this and they

- 1 have a CF center and they have excellent care, then
- 2 they will be okay." Because there are a lot of people
- 3 -- and if you study our numbers in American public
- 4 health, we are struggling. Some of our pockets in our
- 5 cities struggle with public health and public health
- 6 issues.
- 7 So I would say that our ability to give them
- 8 something that is in a condition where it does not
- 9 shift that burden on them, because many consumers are
- 10 trying to manage their personal care. That's why
- 11 they're having problems. So that's what I did want to
- 12 inject.
- DR. FOX: I think that's an important point,
- 14 and certainly we would be willing to discuss with the
- 15 FDA about whether there should be any issues about
- 16 which -- what type of sites should be able to provide
- 17 this medication. That would be one method to ensure
- 18 only experts would be using this drug in their
- 19 management. That would be one possible way I guess.
- DR. JACOBY: Dr. Parad?
- 21 DR. PARAD: I was just thinking about the
- 22 conundrum with the control and wondering whether -- I

- 1 know from your earlier phase trials that you used 40
- 2 milligrams. And this is an unusual study in that your
- 3 control is a low dose of the drug, which could
- 4 potentially have an effect. Do you think it's possible
- 5 that six weeks of using 50 milligrams could have some
- 6 cumulative effect that might be causing the control
- 7 level to be higher than we would expect?
- 8 DR. FOX: We are left with -- I don't know.
- 9 The 40 milligrams used in the Phase II is virtually
- 10 identical to the 50 based on the 40 -- based on the
- 11 number of capsules and the emitted dose. So using a
- 12 number of five milligram capsules would equate almost
- 13 exactly to the 50 milligram we use for the 10 capsules.
- So the dose is the same. The time is less
- 15 for sure. And I guess if that was the case, then the
- 16 effect estimate in children is conservative. But it
- 17 really is speculation; the Phase II data doesn't
- 18 support that.
- DR. JACOBY: Dr. Druce?
- 20 DR. DRUCE: This morning I believe we saw a
- 21 slide with the incidence of hemoptysis in the CF
- 22 population in general. I think it would be quite

- 1 informative if there were any data available on the
- 2 incidence of hemoptysis and adverse events in general
- 3 from hypertonic saline, which is another airway
- 4 irritant.
- 5 And I would ask either the sponsor or the
- 6 experts if there are any data available to inform that
- 7 decision.
- 8 DR. FOX: If I could ask Dr. Flume to
- 9 comment as an expert in hemoptysis epidemiology.
- 10 DR. FLUME: And if I could have that slide
- 11 up, please. This is the slide that I had shown earlier
- 12 looking at what is known about the incidence of
- 13 hemoptysis, keeping in mind that how it was catalogued
- 14 in the past has varied. So, for example, in our CF
- 15 patient registry, in the past it had only been
- 16 capturing massive hemoptysis. So it was not capturing
- 17 all episodes of hemoptysis in patients.
- So the Israeli paper was the first one to
- 19 actually look back into their charts to try and
- 20 determine what the incidence of the hemoptysis was.
- 21 And even in their paper, they admit that whatever they
- 22 could report is likely an underestimate, because they

- 1 are relying upon retrospective reports.
- 2 And so what you saw in that, of their patient
- 3 population which had a mean age of the low twenties,
- 4 had a nine percent incidence in that year of
- 5 hemoptysis. And I stated earlier 25 percent of those
- 6 cases are under the age of 13, so, obviously, there is
- 7 another chunk in there in the adolescent age group.
- 8 We know from the studies of rhDNase,
- 9 tobramycin, and even ivacaftor what the incidence of
- 10 hemoptysis was, because that was tracked as part of the
- 11 measurement they were using in the Fuchs criteria,
- 12 which did capture that question. And you see that in
- 13 the rhDNase study 21 percent incidence, and the mean
- 14 age of the study was roughly 18 years of age. Now,
- 15 again, that was in the '90s, and so we didn't have
- 16 quite so many therapies.
- 17 And perhaps as lung health has improved over
- 18 time, maybe that incidence will have decreased. But
- 19 you see the same thing in the tobramycin study. These
- 20 are patients who are required to have Pseudomonas in
- 21 their cultures. And then, most recently, the ivacaftor
- 22 study - this is in the last couple of years -- you

- 1 can see a 22 percent incidence, and that includes
- 2 adolescents and adults.
- 3 So one of the things that we say is
- 4 anecdotally we see hemoptysis actually pretty
- 5 frequently, and I think some of our patients who have
- 6 had episodes of hemoptysis tend to ignore what they
- 7 perceive as being minor, that they have had it before.
- Now, in our CF guidelines, what we had asked
- 9 of our experts is, what do you think about the first
- 10 episode of hemoptysis, even if it's scant? And the
- 11 consensus was that that warrants a phone call. That
- 12 warrants instructing the family to contact their
- 13 clinician. It doesn't mean they have to be in the
- 14 hospital, doesn't mean you have to jump all over it
- 15 with that, but the other part is most people consider
- 16 that to be a sign of an exacerbation, and that usually
- 17 warrants an intervention.
- 18 So this is what we know about the actual
- 19 incidence of hemoptysis, which I believe is, although
- 20 less common in children, is not negligible.
- DR. JACOBY: Yes, Dr. Witzmann.
- DR. WITZMANN: I would like --

DR. RATJEN: I just wanted to make a brief 1 2 comment related to hypertonic saline, because that was part of the question. And, unfortunately, because the 3 large trial on Australia that was done on hypertonic saline, unfortunately, it wasn't done in a very 5 vigorous way that all of the side effects were captured. So we don't have any good for that, so, 7 unfortunately, we do -- we cannot compare that. 9 DR. JACOBY: Yes? 10 DR. WITZMANN: Thanks. I'd like to comment 11 just a little bit upon those as well. As Dr. Flume did point out with those studies, the studies that he 12 posted where we are discussing the incidence of 13 hemoptysis that was seen in those, while some of the 14 patient age ranges could overlap with the study that 15 16 we're looking here, this study was done in patients where 43 percent of the total safety population was in 17 18 patients less than 18 years of age. 19 Just as an example, the patient populations 20 with regard to pulmozyme, while being done in the 1990s, also looked at a patient population, and one of 21 22 the two studies for registration for that trial looked

- 1 at patients who had a low FEV1 and were in the severe
- 2 category. So some of that data is skewed by the fact
- 3 that the patient population FEV1 range may have been
- 4 different as opposed to potentially the age ranges in
- 5 the study. So we think that's an important fact.
- 6 The other thing is Dr. Flume used this
- 7 information from the previous studies earlier to say
- 8 that looking at the study for pulmozyme, looking at the
- 9 study from toby that led to enrollment, that it's not
- 10 really fair to compare the groups when you are talking
- 11 about the overall FEV1 improvement, because so much has
- 12 changed. FEV1s, in general, have risen, as we saw from
- 13 Dr. Marschall's slides from the CF Foundation over
- 14 time.
- 15 So then to turn that around and say that,
- 16 well, maybe it does count if they are looking at
- 17 incidence of hemoptysis, and using the same data
- 18 doesn't necessarily - isn't exactly equitable as far
- 19 as my interpretation of the same data.
- Thank you.
- DR. JACOBY: Dr. Greenberger?
- 22 DR. GREENBERGER: Severe acute hemoptysis or

- 1 any form of hemoptysis, can someone tell me how many
- 2 patients had to have bronchoscopy because of
- 3 hemoptysis? And in what groups?
- 4 DR. CHARLTON: There were 16 cases of
- 5 hemoptysis in the six- to 17-year-olds. Every single
- 6 case was medical management only. All but two of them
- 7 it was observation only. Two had medical treatment.
- B DR. GREENBERGER: Do you have the information
- 9 how many were hospitalized because of hemoptysis?
- 10 DR. CHARLTON: None were hospitalized because
- 11 of hemoptysis. Three were hospitalized because the
- 12 hemoptysis, in almost all cases, was associated with
- 13 exacerbation. Three patients were hospitalized for
- 14 intravenous antibiotics to treat the exacerbation.
- DR. GREENBERGER: So no one was hospitalized
- 16 because of the --
- 17 DR. CHARLTON: Sorry?
- 18 DR. GREENBERGER: -- hemoptysis in the
- 19 absence of an exacerbation?
- DR. CHARLTON: How many?
- 21 DR. GREENBERGER: You're saying no one was
- 22 hospitalized --

DR. CHARLTON: Yeah. Sorry. No one was hospitalized --2 DR. GREENBERGER: -- independent of 3 exacerbation. 5 DR. CHARLTON: -- apart from being hospitalized for an exacerbation. The other thing to remember is that this -- the population in the study, because we had a cutoff of 90 percent FEV1, so this group of children and adolescents represents probably 10 less than half of what you would normally see in a clinic. So the percentages overall are skewed. 11 DR. JACOBY: Dr. Durmowicz? 12 DR. DURMOWICZ: I just want to respond to 13 that comment, because you unequivocally can't say that 14 nobody was hospitalized due to hemoptysis when 15 16 hemoptysis is part of the definition of an exacerbation. So I don't buy that comment. I'm sorry. 17 18 DR. JACOBY: Okay. Let's discuss Question 3, which is a discussion of the efficacy and safety 19 20 profile in children now limited to the -- children and adolescents limited to the age of six to 17 years. 21 22 Yes, Dr. Wagener

- DR. WAGENER: I'll start this one off, too.
- 2 I was thinking of this as risk/benefit. But when I was
- 3 in grade school, I was told I can't divide by zero. So
- 4 if you look at the subgroup analyses, you cannot find
- 5 benefit in the under 18-year-olds. It is that simple.
- 6 And so if there is any risk, then it is infinity.
- 7 DR. JACOBY: Well, it's hard to argue with
- 8 the mathematics of that. Dr. Fox?
- 9 DR. FOX: Right. Well, obviously, I have
- 10 already shown you the forest plot -- the data slide up
- 11 -- that actually shows no statistical difference
- 12 between children and adolescents compared to adults.
- 13 So I think in terms of saying there is no effect, the
- 14 studies were designed to look at the overall efficacy,
- 15 and we certainly can concur with the FDA that although
- 16 there may have been some slight overestimate in terms
- 17 of Study 301, the effect and estimate in both studies
- 18 is around the region of around 60 mLs, and that is
- 19 equally applicable to the children and adolescents as
- 20 it is to the adult population.
- 21 The studies were designed to evaluate the
- 22 overall population, and there is no statistical

- 1 difference between the two. Nevertheless, if I might
- 2 have the next slide up, please, what may be useful is
- 3 to look at the pooled data in six- to 17-year-olds that
- 4 hasn't been shared to this point, looking at the key
- 5 endpoints in children and adolescents, using the pooled
- 6 data to decide whether there really is any evidence or
- 7 not.
- 8 And I would like to ask Dr. Ratjen to
- 9 comment, to give a clinical overview from a
- 10 pediatrician on the clinical meaningfulness, if that is
- 11 all right, Dr. Jacoby.
- DR. RATJEN: Okay. So this kind of
- 13 summarizes the data for FEV1 in mLs and FEV1 in percent
- 14 FVC, and also in terms of exacerbations. And I think
- 15 the way that I would look at the data, of course, if
- 16 you look at the individual data you don't see an
- 17 overwhelming statistically significant effect except
- 18 for FVC.
- 19 But the totality of the data all go in the
- 20 same direction, that there seems to be a benefit. And,
- 21 again, in the slide that I showed earlier today and
- 22 when you look at children versus -- in treated versus

- 1 control, there was certainly a significant control
- 2 effect. And overall it didn't really -- yes, slide up,
- 3 please.
- 4 If you look at these data in terms of change
- 5 in mLs, and taking into account that mLs in children
- 6 are actually a little bit more than they are in adults,
- 7 these data to me would not suggest that there is a --
- 8 that there is a bias that children have less efficacy
- 9 of the drug. In terms of the safety considerations,
- 10 absolutely that is something that you need to balance
- 11 against that and that's -- but I think I would
- 12 challenge the concept of saying that there is clearly a
- 13 different signal for children in terms of the lung
- 14 function response.
- DR. JACOBY: Dr. Terry?
- DR. TERRY: The question we are being asked
- 17 to discuss is support for the efficacy and safety. And
- 18 you are using FEV1 as a surrogate for efficacy, and
- 19 would argue that in fact it is a very poor surrogate.
- 20 We have no evidence that in fact the quality or
- 21 quantity of these people's lives are improved on the
- 22 basis of their FEV1.

- 1 DR. RATJEN: If we could go back to the slide
- 2 I showed on six- to 17-year-olds summarizing the
- 3 different endpoints of efficacy including exacerbation,
- 4 certainly recognizing your point about the surrogacy.
- 5 Slide up, please.
- 6 DR. FLUME: So when we debate which are the
- 7 proper endpoints, we look at all of the factors that
- 8 might flow into how our patients feel and function.
- 9 The FEV1 is the one that we use most commonly in the
- 10 clinic. It's the one we follow in the clinic. It's the
- 11 number our patients recall, they look at, they see. We
- 12 monitor it very closely, and that's one of the things
- 13 that we report in our data.
- So you can carve that several different ways
- 15 by looking at it as a percent of predicted, keeping in
- 16 mind that this is a population which also is intended
- 17 to grow. So you don't want it to remain flat; you want
- 18 that to increase.
- 19 If you look at the other endpoints here, the
- 20 secondary input is looking at mechanisms of action in
- 21 terms of airway clearance. Earlier studies looking at
- 22 mucociliary clearance had demonstrated benefit in here.

- 1 If it's a fair surrogate looking at sputum weight, you
- 2 are seeing clear evidence of that there is increasing
- 3 weight.
- 4 And then I want to comment about
- 5 exacerbations, because I have heard comments being said
- 6 about that we didn't get it on the exacerbations.
- 7 Keeping in mind the study wasn't powered to measure
- 8 exacerbations -- that would require a very long and
- 9 large study to do that -- and yet what you see is a
- 10 clear signal of a direction in where we're going with
- 11 exacerbations.
- 12 And you saw this in the overall data. You
- 13 see a reduction there as well in the pediatric
- 14 population. And if I could have my -- the exacerbation
- 15 slide from the core?
- I had shared with you the exacerbation rates
- 17 that came from other pivotal trial studies, one of
- 18 which you might recall is rhDNase, and that was
- 19 essentially its indication. Slide up, please?
- 20 And what you see here is a 28 percent
- 21 reduction in exacerbations. Actually, the decreased
- 22 incidence of exacerbations used in their primary

- 1 analysis was 22 percent and had a P value of .11. It
- 2 only got to 28 percent when it was done and age-
- 3 adjusted calculation was added in terms of the
- 4 analysis.
- 5 The reduction in tobramycin, that was not
- 6 part of their primaries either. It was a secondary,
- 7 and they only got that by doing a pooled analysis,
- 8 which we did not do in the analysis of the DPM. And
- 9 the hypertonic saline was entirely a post-hoc analysis
- 10 in terms of how that was done.
- 11 So these are all data that are out there in
- 12 which the Pulmonary Guidelines Committee has reviewed
- 13 these data and come to the conclusion that they find
- 14 sufficient evidence that they do in fact reduce
- 15 exacerbations. And I put this up to show the
- 16 exacerbation rate -- the reduction in exacerbations
- 17 that was seen in the dry powder mannitol and put them
- 18 into relative comparison of what you see with other
- 19 common drugs that we use.
- DR. JACOBY: Dr. Durmowicz?
- DR. DURMOWICZ: In response, I don't think --
- 22 we don't think you can make anything out of the

- 1 exacerbation data as far as any improvement in
- 2 exacerbations.
- 3 We talked to the company. We have told them
- 4 for exacerbations you'd need to look at one-year safety
- 5 information in a study. Secondly, you don't pool
- 6 exacerbation. We have never pooled exacerbation to
- 7 determine any benefit. And, thirdly, the exacerbation
- 8 data suffers from the same issues as the primary
- 9 analysis does with the differential dropout. And that
- 10 could be even worse in an exacerbation-type population,
- 11 because these patients are dropping out and they might
- 12 -- are the ones that might actually have more
- 13 exacerbations.
- So I don't believe that there is any benefit
- 15 shown in exacerbations in this clinical program,
- 16 although you can show some nominal changes.
- DR. JACOBY: Dr. Zhou?
- 18 MS. ZHOU: I want to clear about the power
- 19 calculation. Based on the SAP report on the Study
- 20 301/302, the sample size was estimated based on the
- 21 demonstrating an improvement in FEV1 of mannitol or the
- 22 patient, and a change in exacerbation rate across all

- 1 of the patients.
- 2 And from the -- in the original design for
- 3 the study, calculation based on 240 patients is enough
- 4 to detect the FEV1 difference. Because exacerbations,
- 5 they increase 100 subject, so power for the
- 6 exacerbation, 80 percent.
- 7 DR. FOX: The primary analysis was based on
- 8 FEV1, and we did indeed also power the study to show a
- 9 50 percent reduction in exacerbations. And certainly I
- 10 acknowledge that in my presentation. The issue is that
- 11 reductions far less than 50 percent are still
- 12 considered clinically meaningful. Slide up, please.
- 13 And the size of a study needed to show a 20
- 14 percent reduction in exacerbations with an 80 percent
- 15 power would need to be two and a half thousand. I
- 16 could certainly ask one of my clinical experts what
- 17 their view is on a 20 percent reduction in
- 18 exacerbations and whether it is clinically relevant.
- 19 Obviously, our studies were underpowered to
- 20 look at exacerbations that were still clinically
- 21 relevant. If I could ask Dr. Flume to comment on that.
- DR. FLUME: So I know quite a bit about

- 1 pulmonary exacerbations, having studied it and written
- 2 about it for the last few years. When we talked about
- 3 exacerbations -- and much of what you have been seeing
- 4 are only those exacerbations which are related to IV
- 5 treatments, in this U.S. population in the last year,
- 6 that is 20,000 events -- 20,000 admissions for IV
- 7 antibiotics.
- 8 And when you start calculating the number of
- 9 estimated exacerbations that include oral antibiotics,
- 10 45,000. So when you start talking about reductions in
- 11 that, you are talking about a 20 percent reduction, is
- 12 that clinically relevant? It indeed is. In terms of
- 13 our patients, that is a big difference.
- DR. JACOBY: Okay. We are going to take an
- 15 eight-minute break. Be back at 3:01.
- 16 (A recess was taken.)
- DR. JACOBY: Before we get to the voting
- 18 questions, Dr. Flume is going to make a brief statement
- 19 about the CF registry.
- 20 DR. FLUME: For those on the Committee who
- 21 may not be familiar with the CF Foundation's patient
- 22 registry, this is a patient registry which is managed

- 1 by the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. There are about 120
- 2 centers that contribute information on their patients.
- 3 This encompasses over 90 percent of the CF patients
- 4 that are in the United States, so we are capturing all
- 5 of them.
- 6 And most centers are consistent with my
- 7 center; 99 percent of our patients have signed consent
- 8 for participation. We are including data at every
- 9 encounter, including lots of clinical information.
- 10 So I know there have been concerns about
- 11 public health issues, but I just wanted to make sure
- 12 everyone knew what actually goes into the patient
- 13 registry.
- DR. JACOBY: Thank you.
- Okay. For the voting questions, we will be
- 16 using an electronic voting system for this -- for the
- 17 meeting. Once we begin the vote, the buttons on your -
- 18 these buttons on your microphones will start flashing
- 19 and they will continue to flash even after you have
- 20 entered your vote until all of the votes have been
- 21 entered.
- 22 Please press the button firmly that

- 1 corresponds to your vote. If you are unsure of your
- 2 vote or you wish to change your vote, you can press the
- 3 corresponding button until the vote is closed. After
- 4 everyone has completed their vote, the vote will be
- 5 locked in. The vote will then be displayed on the
- 6 screen, so there is no secret ballot here. It is going
- 7 to have your name up and how you voted. Everyone will
- 8 know. That's part of the record here.
- 9 The DFO will then read the vote from the
- 10 screen into the record. Next, we will go around the
- 11 room and each individual who voted will state his name
- 12 and their vote into the record. And you can also state
- 13 the reason why you voted as you did. We will continue
- 14 in that manner until all the questions have been
- 15 answered and discussed.
- So the first voting question is Question 4.
- 17 Considering the totality of the data, is there
- 18 substantial evidence of efficacy for DPM at a dose of
- 19 400 milligrams twice daily for improvement of pulmonary
- 20 function in patients six years and older with cystic
- 21 fibrosis? If not, what further efficacy data should be
- 22 obtained?

331 We have discussed this question, but any final brief statements about this, Dr. Parad? DR. PARAD: These questions are not 3 modifiable, I assume? DR. JACOBY: No. 5 DR. PARAD: Okay. 6 7 DR. JACOBY: Okay. So we are ready to vote, then. (Pause.) 10 Okay. Everyone has voted. DR. HONG: We have three yeses, 11 nos, and 11 zero abstains. 12 DR. JACOBY: Okay. Let's start over here to 13 my left. Dr. Herring? Everyone, state your name, how 14 you voted, and then briefly why you voted that way. 15 DR. HERRING: Sure. 16 Amy Herring, voted no. The results presented by Pharmaxis certainly suggest 17 future studies are worthwhile, and the testimony provided by the CF patients and their doctors suggests 19 that there may be real benefit in a subset of 21 individuals. 22 However, the sponsor has not yet met the

standard of evidence for efficacy of DPM overall or in the population of DPM tolerators. The sponsor has not shown that DPM is effective among children and 3 adolescents. 5 DR. JACOBY: Dr. Tracy? DR. TRACY: Jim Tracy, and I voted no. 6 7 looked at this principally from a regulatory standpoint, and I agree with the previous comments about lack of evidence. 10 I do, however, believe that there is no doubt 11 in my mind that there is a subset of individuals that would benefit greatly from this drug. We just don't 12 know who they are yet. 13 14 DR. JACOBY: Mr. Mullins? MR. MULLINS: My rationale for voting against 15 16 efficacy for dry powder mannitol was based on a couple of things. Primarily, based upon DPM's performance 17 18 against control; and, secondly, for the post-marketing 19 analysis and the cumulative data, if you look at it 20 from a meta- analysis standpoint. 21 Thank you.

DR. JACOBY: Dr. Greenberger?

22

DR. GREENBERGER: Paul Greenberger. I voted no. This is a huge unmet need. However, based on the regulatory standards that are in use now, the data did 3 not support substantial evidence. 5 DR. JACOBY: Dr. Terry? DR. TERRY: Peter Terry. I voted no for the 6 same reasons enumerated by Dr. Herring. 7 DR. JACOBY: David Jacoby. I voted no. 8 don't feel that the evidence reached the standards set 10 by the FDA for approval. 11 DR. BLAKE: Kathryn Blake. I voted no. didn't feel like it met the standards set forth by the 12 FDA, although if we had been given the opportunity to vote just on adults, then I would have supported an 14 efficacy for adults. But I just didn't feel like the 15 16 data was strong enough in children. DR. JACOBY: Dr. Stone? 17 18 DR. STONE: Kelly Stone. I voted no. 19 data presented didn't meet the efficacy standard, 20 particularly for children. 21 DR. JACOBY: Dr. Connett? 22 DR. CONNETT: This is John Connett. I voted

- 1 no. I agree regarding the efficacy standards. I think
- 2 it was interesting that the first trial had poor
- 3 followup rates and a lot of missing data and had a
- 4 positive signal. The second trial, they improved a lot
- 5 on the missingness, but the efficacy went away. So I
- 6 think there might be a message in that, too.
- Also, we were asked to approve this for age
- 8 six and higher, and I can't go along with that complete
- 9 range.
- 10 DR. JACOBY: Dr. Harkins?
- 11 DR. HARKINS: I voted yes, partly because of
- 12 the unmet need. I did think one trial, even though it
- 13 had missing data, did have a signal. The second trial
- 14 also had a signal, and I think that it might have
- 15 utility in the CF population.
- DR. JACOBY: Dr. Wagener?
- DR. WAGENER: Jeff Wagener. I voted yes. I
- 18 felt that using the modified intent to treat approach
- 19 they took in 301 supported efficacy. The review by the
- 20 FDA in some ways supported efficacy for adults but not
- 21 for children. And I feel, overall, as Dr. Hawkins --
- 22 Harkins said. There is a modification to the absolute

- definition of "efficacy" in a situation where this is first drug in class. 2 3 DR. JACOBY: Dr. Parad? DR. PARAD: I voted yes. I wanted to answer a different question, but I'll give my provisos here. 5 I believe that 301 overall did show an effect, and 302 was marginal. I don't see this for children, but I do 7 believe that I would accept a two to four percent response in this setting as an efficacious response. 10 But I would only consider it under -- if I am allowed to give the suggested labeling that was 11 mentioned before, only under the supervision of a CF 12 center in greater than or equal to 18 years of age with 13 an FEV1 40 to 90 percent, a negative mannitol challenge 14 response demonstrated six weeks after therapy by 15 16 increased FEV1, and only under the circumstances that
- 19 DR. JACOBY: Dr. Castile?

to look at the risks in subpopulations.

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18

20 DR. CASTILE: Bob Castile, and I voted no,

there would be continued trials under informed consent

- 21 because I thought that the FEV1 surrogate data was
- 22 borderline over the population from six to adulthood.

And there was no supporting additional evidence of direct clinical benefit. And so I voted no, and I think that there -- that further efficacy data should 3 be obtained. DR. JACOBY: Dr. Cataletto? 5 DR. CATALETTO: Mary Cataletto. I voted no. I was -- I have to say I was very impressed by the clinical anecdotes, both from the public and from the CF centers, but I did not think that the data merited 10 the standard of care or met the standard of care. 11 DR. JACOBY: Thank you. Okay. The second question, Question 5. Is the safety profile for DPM 12 for the maintenance and treatment of patients with cystic fibrosis sufficient to support approval? 14 not, what further safety data should be obtained? 15 16 And we have discussed this quite a lot. Any final thoughts on this before we vote? 17 18 (No response.) Okay. 19 Then, vote. 20 (Pause.) 21 Okay. 22 DR. HONG: We have three yeses, 11 nos, and

337 zero abstains. DR. JACOBY: Okay. Same procedure. Let's 2 start at the other end this time, and we can come 3 around this way. Dr. Cataletto? DR. CATALETTO: I'm Mary Cataletto. I voted 5 no. Same thing; I don't think it met the standard --7 DR. JACOBY: Turn your microphone on. DR. CATALETTO: Sorry. Mary Cataletto. I voted no. I don't believe it met the standard for 10 approval. DR. CASTILE: Bob Castile. I voted no. I 11 think -- I thought the data -- I think there was 12 agreement that there was an increased risk of 13 hemoptysis, particularly in children, that was not 14 explained yet, even taking into account the explanation 15 16 that bleeding may be a positive sign, a positive effect of the drug. 17 18 In fact, I -- anecdotally, I would agree with 19 But I don't think we know the answer, and so, that. 20 again, I think we need more information. 21 DR. JACOBY: Dr. Parad? 22 DR. PARAD: This is Richard Parad. I voted

- 1 no, again, because of the wording of the question. I
- 2 would have said yes for 18 and above. I felt the data
- 3 looked reasonably safe, but I was not comfortable with
- 4 the hemoptysis risk in children, and I feel that needs
- 5 more investigation.
- DR. JACOBY: Dr. Wagener?
- 7 DR. WAGENER: Jeff Wagener. I voted no,
- 8 partly for the reason that Dr. Castile made related to
- 9 hemoptysis, but also I feel in reviewing the animal
- 10 data there was some evidence of lung inflammation, and
- 11 they need to do interlongitudinal -- a more -- a longer
- 12 term study looking at inflammation as a potential
- 13 adverse effect.
- DR. JACOBY: Dr. Harkins?
- DR. HARKINS: Michelle Harkins. I voted no,
- 16 solely for the pediatric signal in hemoptysis, and I
- 17 think it should be monitored longer term to see if it
- 18 has any other ill effects. But I wouldn't have a
- 19 problem with it in the adult population.
- DR. JACOBY: Dr. Connett?
- 21 DR. CONNETT: This is John Connett. I voted
- 22 no on the basis of the hemoptysis data. But it seemed

- 1 to me to be concentrated in the patients that had the
- 2 really low lung function, not necessarily pediatric.
- 3 DR. JACOBY: Dr. Stone?
- DR. STONE: Kelly Stone. I voted no. The
- 5 data presented didn't meet the safety standard, again,
- 6 particularly in children.
- 7 DR. JACOBY: Dr. Blake?
- BDR. BLAKE: Kathryn Blake. I also voted no,
- 9 and it was primarily because of the pediatric risks
- 10 that were identified, and that this is a new drug
- 11 class, and I feel like that for children we have to be
- 12 especially careful.
- DR. JACOBY: David Jacoby. I voted no for
- 14 reasons that have already been stated by others.
- DR. TERRY: Peter Terry. I voted no for the
- 16 reason I felt there was insufficient evidence to make
- 17 any comments about safety.
- DR. JACOBY: Dr. Greenberger?
- 19 DR. GREENBERGER: I voted yes. I thought
- 20 there was sufficient weight of evidence to understand
- 21 the safety profile, and specifically regarding the
- 22 hemoptysis that was not life-threatening or life

- 1 endangering. And that would be a manageable risk for
- 2 which the physicians would no longer prescribe the
- 3 medicine, and the ones who could be on the treatment
- 4 would continue.
- 5 DR. JACOBY: Mr. Mullins?
- 6 MR. MULLINS: Rodney Mullins. My vote was
- 7 based upon concerns with the high level of -- the lack
- 8 of tolerability and the dropout rate. And I was
- 9 looking for some understanding about those that dropped
- 10 out, further analysis, and just the overall -- the high
- 11 occurrence of hemoptysis, even in adults, concerned me.
- 12 Thank you.
- DR. JACOBY: Dr. Tracy?
- DR. TRACY: Jim Tracy, and I voted yes. I
- 15 thought there was sufficient evidence, looking at the
- 16 regulatory requirements. I do understand the concerns
- 17 with pediatric. I think that that is -- needs to be
- 18 watched carefully down the road.
- DR. JACOBY: And Dr. Herring?
- 20 DR. HERRING: Amy Herring. I also voted yes.
- 21 While I do have concerns about the children, to me the
- 22 overall profile didn't include any clearly irreversible

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- 1 adverse events, and given the disease area. That's my
- 2 vote.
- 3 DR. JACOBY: The final voting question is
- 4 Question 6. Do the efficacy and safety data provide
- 5 substantial evidence to support the approval of DPM at
- 6 a dose of 400 milligrams twice daily for management of
- 7 cystic fibrosis in patients aged six years and older to
- 8 improve pulmonary function? If not, what further data
- 9 should be obtained?
- 10 So this is really a combination of the
- 11 previous two questions. Any comments on this?
- 12 (No response.)
- 13 Okay. Then, go ahead and vote.
- 14 (Pause.)
- 15 Okay. Everyone has voted.
- DR. HONG: Okay. We have zero yeses, 14 nos,
- 17 and zero abstains.
- 18 DR. JACOBY: Okay. Let's start back over
- 19 here. Dr. Herring?
- 20 DR. HERRING: Amy Herring. I voted no for
- 21 the reasons previously stated.
- DR. JACOBY: Dr. Tracy?

I voted no principally for the 1 DR. TRACY: 2 efficacy component. 3 DR. JACOBY: Mr. Mullins? MR. MULLINS: I voted no, particularly because the data was striking to me as it occurred in 5 the areas of safety. I mean, they were very clear, and then, as far as efficacy, the -- much of the data was 7 statistically insignificant. And then, once again, the post-marketing analysis, once it went out to the real 10 world in Argentina and other places in South America. 11 Thank you. 12 DR. JACOBY: Dr. Greenberger? DR. GREENBERGER: I voted no. I stated 13 earlier that I voted no, because the efficacy -- there 14 was not substantial evidence based on the framework we 15 16 were given for improvement in pulmonary function. I would also like to raise a possibility 17 regarding further data, that using hindsight Study 18 19 2002, with the dose-response study, was -- gave 20 misleading results as choosing the dose, led to too high of a dose, and that the long-term benefit, if the 21 22 sensitivity analysis can be accepted, actually shows

- benefit with lower dosages than the supposed 400 milligram BID. 2 3 DR. JACOBY: Dr. Terry? DR. TERRY: Peter Terry. I voted no for the same reasons I voted no in Questions 4 and 5. 5 DR. JACOBY: David Jacoby. I voted no for 6 the reasons that I voted no on the other two questions. Dr. Blake? 8 DR. BLAKE: Kathryn Blake. I voted no, primarily because of the pediatric efficacy and safety 11 data. But I would support a sponsor's submission for adult use only. I was very moved by the stories from 12 the patients and their clinicians, and I feel like this does have a place in the treatment of adults. 14 15 DR. JACOBY: Dr. Stone? 16 DR. STONE: Kelly Stone. I voted no for the reasons previously stated. 17 18 DR. JACOBY: Dr. Connett? 19 DR. CONNETT: I voted no, because I voted no 20 on the previous two questions. But I think it was the
 - 21 quality of the data in especially the first study, not
 - 22 especially good, and the safety issues.

On the other hand, I wish I could have voted 1 yes, because it seems like some kind of treatment that does what this drug is intended to do is needed. 3 DR. JACOBY: Dr. Harkins? DR. HAWKINS: Michelle Harkins. I voted no, 5 because I had a split vote, so, therefore, I had to vote no. But I do feel that it is an unmet need. feel very confident in the adult population, and that's all I have to say. DR. JACOBY: Dr. Wagener? 10 DR. WAGENER: Jeff Wagener. I voted no. 11 feel that if it was just for adults it would be more 12 reasonably approved. But I feel they need more 13 information, more study in children, particularly long-14 term, looking at exacerbations and other outcomes 15 16 besides just FEV1. DR. JACOBY: Dr. Parad? 17 18 DR. PARAD: This is Richard Parad. I also 19 was forced to say no by my prior answers and my concern 20 about risk/benefit ratio in children, but would have voted more positively for adults. 21 22 DR. JACOBY: Dr. Castile?

- DR. CASTILE: Bob Castile. I voted no,
- 2 because I thought there was a real lack of clarity in
- 3 both the risk and the benefit data, which didn't permit
- 4 me to really adequately assess the risk/benefit ratio,
- 5 and particularly over the range of the population
- 6 stated in the question. And so I think this is
- 7 unfortunate, because I do think it has a role, but
- 8 based on the data presented and the question asked, I
- 9 had to vote no.
- DR. JACOBY: And Dr. Cataletto?
- DR. CATALETTO: Mary Cataletto. I voted no.
- 12 Again, with my colleagues, I wish I could have voted
- 13 yes, because I think there is a place for a drug like
- 14 this. But I think that further studies are necessary.
- 15 Adjournment
- DR. JACOBY: Okay. Those are all of the
- 17 questions we have been asked to consider.
- I would like to thank the members of the
- 19 Committee. I would like to thank the people who did
- 20 presentations on behalf of the sponsors. I would like
- 21 to thank the FDA, and I'd like to thank all of the
- 22 people who participated in the open forum.

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              Thank you, all.
 1
              Dr. Durmowicz?
 2
              DR. DURMOWICZ: I would also join in from the
 3
   FDA standpoint and thank everybody for coming here and
    sharing their views, and I thank the patients and
 5
    advocates for coming as well.
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 7
               (Whereupon, at 3:23 p.m., the meeting of the
               Pulmonary-Allergy Drugs Advisory Committee
 8
              was adjourned.)
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